

FACES
Diversity a
priority for
actress Davis
Page 18



PACIFIC
S. Korea's Moon says
US, N. Korea in talks
for 3rd nuke summit
Page 6



BASEBALL
Yankees homer
in MLB record
28th straight game
Back page

Navy to reimburse spouses for some professional licensing fees » Page 5

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 78, No. 51 ©SS 2019 THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

2 US troops are killed in Afghanistan

Stars and Stripes

Two U.S. servicemembers were killed in Afghanistan on Wednesday, according to a statement from the U.S.-led NATO Resolute Support mission.

No other details were available. Their names are being withheld until 24 hours after next of kin are notified, the statement said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the deaths Wednesday, saying in a brief statement on Twitter that the Americans were killed in an ambush in Wardak province on the outskirts of Sayad Abad district. The district is located about 60 miles south of Kabul, along the Kabul-Kandahar Highway.

News of the deaths comes about two months after three Marines assigned to 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division were killed in a car bombing outside Bagram Air Field. The April 8 incident, which happened only days before they were expected to return home from Afghanistan, wounded three other Americans, an Afghan contractor and five Afghan civilians.

The U.S. war in Afghanistan is now in its 18th year. Some 14,000 American troops are deployed there and are charged with two separate but related missions.

SEE AFGHANISTAN ON PAGE 2

Gender matters

Female squad leader helps US soldiers perform peacekeeping with women in mind

Page 3

Army Staff Sgt. Jenna Ross leads a search for a weapons cache in a mock village in the Chilikemer training area in Kazakhstan during Exercise Steppe Eagle on Sunday. Ross, the first female infantry soldier in the Arizona Army National Guard, is now a squad leader.

VA policy restricts access to benefits for Native Americans

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

OHKAY OWINGEH, N.M. — Inside a small conference room in a hotel-casino on the Ohkay Owingeh reservation, attorney Carol Wild Scott sat across the table from veterans and their families, one group after another, who were there to find answers they couldn't get anywhere else.

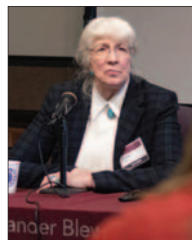
There was a Vietnam War veteran who filed a claim for disability benefits with

the Department of Veterans Affairs in the late 1970s. When it was denied, he thought "that was that" and wasn't aware he could file an appeal — potentially losing out on more than 40 years of income.

One Gulf War veteran walked into the room clutching a tattered DD-214 discharge document and revealed he struggled with nightmares and suicidal thoughts. He wasn't aware he could get free counseling at the Vet Center in Santa Fe, and he had not heard of the Veteran Crisis Line.

Before the 9/11 terrorist attacks, American Indians served in the military at a higher rate than any other ethnic group, according to VA data. Resigned from military life, many of them have settled in rural places, far from VA facilities and without culturally competent assistance for getting connected to their earned benefits.

SEE BENEFITS ON PAGE 8



Carol Wild Scott, chairman of the Veterans and Military Law Section of the Federal Bar Association, has spent much of her career advocating for assistance for tribal veterans.

NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WAR ON TERRORISM

US woman who aided Islamic State seeks leniency

By TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — An American woman who admitted to participating in the online recruitment of Islamic State fighters is seeking leniency in her terrorism case over the objections of prosecutors who say she double-crossed them.

Defense attorneys for Sinmyah Amera Caesar, who once used the nom de guerre "Umm Nutella," argued at a sentencing hearing Tuesday in federal court in Brooklyn that she's a lost soul worthy of redemption. They want her sentenced to time served — about two years — and a life-time of supervision that would include participating in a rehab program.

Prosecutors, burned by Caesar's efforts to secretly get back in touch with her ISIS contacts after signing up as a cooperater, told U.S. District Judge Jack Weinstein that she's still a terror-

‘The question for the court is whether you can be trusted.’

U.S. District Judge Jack Weinstein
presiding over American woman's terrorism case

ist threat who deserves a severe punishment of at least 30 years behind bars.

Caesar, 24, "was a committed recruiter and self-described 'assistant' to the terrorist group, connecting ISIS supporters in the United States to ISIS facilitators and operatives abroad," the government wrote in court papers.

At the hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Josh Hafetz said the defendant's interactions involved "two confirmed ISIS operatives" in the Middle East who were ultimately killed in airstrikes.

Defense attorney Deirdre Von Dornum insisted the communications were a misguided attempt to

find comfort from a community of fellow Muslims.

"Yes, she messed up," Von Dornum said about her client's violation of her cooperation agreement. "We just need to give her a lot more help this time."

Weinstein adjourned the hearing until Wednesday, when he was expected to hear further arguments and from Caesar before deciding her sentence.

"The question for the court is whether you can be trusted," Weinstein said.

Little was known about Caesar before the hearing because her case was largely kept under seal to protect her from retaliation while she offered the government

assistance in identifying threats from ISIS.

Defense attorneys describe the New Jersey-born defendant as a high school dropout who suffers from severe trauma and whose father sexually abused her. She was living in Brooklyn in 2016 when she became radicalized by extremist propaganda and began interacting with other ISIS sympathizers as "Umm Nutella," an apparent nod to social media posts purporting to show ISIS fighters enjoying the popular hazelnut cocoa spread.

She soon began advocating violent jihad Facebook posts, prosecutors said, including one written in Arabic from February 2016 that read, "Let's go ... let's go like the soldiers."

Using encrypted messages, she also corresponded with ISIS sympathizers, providing them contact information for recruiters who could help them travel overseas or direct them about how to con-

duct attacks on U.S. soil, prosecutors said.

After Caesar was intercepted while trying to leave the country at Kennedy Airport, she pleaded guilty to providing material support to ISIS and offered information to the FBI about her ISIS contacts. In 2018, she was released on bail while awaiting sentencing.

While out, Caesar started reaching out to former associates, an effort that included "multiple attempts to contact at least one individual against whom the defendant proactively cooperated," court papers say. She also deleted about 1,000 Facebook messages in an effort to cover her tracks, the papers say.

Caesar, who's now back in jail, "has shown no contrition, taken no responsibility for her conduct and failed to separate herself from the extremist world she revealed in before her 2016 arrest," court papers say.

Correction

A June 26 story cited a military statement with the wrong year for when Kazakhstan's peacekeeping battalion passed certification to participate in NATO operations. The battalion passed NATO evaluation in 2017.

Also, a caption should have identified the capital of Kazakhstan as Nur-Sultan.

Afghanistan: Latest deaths among 2,400 for US military

FROM FRONT PAGE

About 8,500 are training and advising Afghan security forces in stabilizing the country and battling the Taliban insurgency as part of the U.S.-led NATO mission. The remainder are part of a bilateral counterterrorism operation against al-Qaida and Islamic State fighters.

More than 2,400 U.S. military personnel have been killed and more than 20,000 have been wounded since the beginning of the Afghan War in October 2001.

Wednesday's deaths came one day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, on a visit

to Kabul, said Washington is hopeful a peace agreement that would bring an end to the war in Afghanistan can be reached before Sept. 1.

A fresh round of peace talks is expected to begin Saturday between representatives of the U.S. and the Taliban in Doha, Qatar.

The Taliban have so far refused to hold direct talks with the Kabul government, which they regard as Washington's puppet regime. Informal Afghan-to-Afghan talks planned for earlier this year in Doha were canceled after both sides disagreed over who should attend.

news@stripes.com



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says Washington hopes a peace agreement for Afghanistan can be reached before Sept. 1.

TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup	17
Business	21
Classified	19, 23
Comics	22
Crossword	22
Faces	18
Opinion	20
Sports	25-32
Weather	21

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 315.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 315.583.9111

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING

ICHIRO
KATAYANAGI

CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

+81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES.
RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions
of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at
www.stripes.com/relo



MILITARY

Making a difference

Training shows how gender can affect peacekeeping and stability operations

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

CHILIKEMER TRAINING AREA, Kazakhstan — Four Arizona National Guardsmen went house to house in a mock village set up on a grassy plain in rural Kazakhstan searching for an enemy weapons cache.

At many of the houses, women acting out the scenario during the Steppe Eagle exercise told the American soldiers that their culture did not allow them to enter unless a female servicemember was present.

That's where this particular squad of guardsmen stood out. Led by the first female infantry squad leader in the Arizona National Guard, Staff Sgt. Jenna Ross, the squad entered and searched the houses for the hidden weapons.

Not long after starting the searches in the village, Spc. Efrén Armenta told Ross, "Jackpot." He'd found the stash.

The scenario was part of training on how gender can affect peacekeeping and stability operations.

Ross, a member of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment, said her presence helped bring her squad's search mission to a successful conclusion.

"It's definitely an asset to have females in the military, specifically in the infantry, because males can't do certain things in some cultures," she said.

The weeklong Steppe Eagle exercise involved more than 400 troops from host country Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, the U.K. and the U.S., with observers from India, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Several Steppe Eagle drills included gender as a factor. In one, villagers come to the gates of bases to report that they had been raped. Another tested whether soldiers could spot signs that a woman was the victim of human trafficking.

Steppe Eagle also included training on how sexual and gender-based violence affect peacekeeping efforts, said Capt. Jessica Simpson, a member of the British Army's 77th Brigade.

"We looked into how you can integrate a gender perspective into the full planning process," Simpson said.

Kazakhstan's ground forces are due to deploy later this year to Lebanon to serve on the U.N. peacekeeping mission. The focus on gender at this exercise comes as other peacekeeping units have faced accusations of rape and sexual misconduct in Bosnia and several parts of Africa.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres pledged to make ending the " scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by U.N. personnel, including peacekeepers" a priority of the global body.

'A novelty'

Ross enlisted in 2009 and has spent her career working as a medic and recruiter, with a stint as a drill sergeant. She joined the infantry last year to challenge herself, she said.

In November, she attended an Advanced Leader Course for infantry sergeants and learned how to be a squad leader.

"The women were the females," Ross said. "I was a novelty for the instructors."

Ross acknowledged she had a lot to learn about being an infantry squad leader. She has adopted a humble but determined leadership style, she said.

"I'm not the type to give up or quit very easily. I'm stubborn to a fault," Ross said, offering advice on what women can expect if they, too, join the infantry — which Ross hoped they will.



PHOTOS BY J.P. LAWRENCE/STARS AND STRIPES

Staff Sgt. Jenna Ross, second from left, seizes weapons from actors posing as villagers during Exercise Steppe Eagle in the Chilikemer training area in Kazakhstan on Sunday. American, British, Tajik and Kazakh troops took part in the exercise, which included training on gender issues.



Above: U.S. Army soldiers from 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment search an actor posing as a villager suspected of hiding a weapons cache. Left: Ross, right, talks to a female actor posing as a civilian whose sister has been kidnapped.

When she first came to her unit, Ross said, some of the men mistook her for a victim's advocate for sexual harassment, assault response and prevention. She has also noticed generational differences regarding attitudes of women in combat roles.

"The younger generation of soldiers — my squad — they're cool with it," Ross said. "The older generation of soldiers, who are not used to females even being in the

military... it's eye-opening for them."

All military services were ordered in 2013 by then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to lift a long-standing ban on women in combat roles. The services were given until January 2016 to fully integrate or ask for special exemptions.

Prior to the ban being lifted, the Army and Marine Corps barred women from jobs in combat arms, including in the in-

fantry, artillery and armored divisions. The Air Force and Navy had greater gender integration but women were excluded from special operations units.

Since 2011, the Army has transferred more than 1,000 women into combat arms specialties and at least 500 women now serve in each of the service's active brigade combat teams, Army Lt. Gen. Thomas Seaman said in a statement last month.

There are currently no other female infantry soldiers in the Arizona National Guard, Ross said, but she hopes others will join her.

"I'm excited to be part of a movement that's nationwide," Ross said.

"It's definitely an asset to have females in the military, specifically in the infantry, because males can't do certain things in some cultures."

Staff Sgt. Jenna Ross
Arizona National Guard

lawrence.jp@stripes.com
Twitter: @jplawrence3

MILITARY

Large anti-drone protest to return to Ramstein base

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Thousands of peace activists are expected to gather outside Ramstein Air Base on Saturday to protest its alleged role in U.S. drone operations.

The annual demonstration against the largest U.S. military base in Germany could include a temporary blockade of the main access road, although organizers and police say the protest is expected to be peaceful.

Activists with the Stop Air Base Ramstein Campaign staying at a peace camp near Ramstein this week are receiving instruction in acts of civil disobedience, including "blockade training."

"With our blockade, we are practicing civil resistance and countervailing — against the madness of daily drone warfare

and drone warfare system," says a statement from the group, part of the Berlin-based Stop Ramstein — No Drone War alliance.

This is the fifth year the alliance has organized a protest outside the base.

Kaiserslautern police spokesman Bernhard Erfordt said 3,000-4,000 protesters are expected this year.

The group plans to gather at city hall in Ramstein-Miesenbach and begin marching to the base around 1:45 p.m. on Saturday. The protest is expected to wind down by 3 p.m., according to a schedule obtained from the group.

In years past, activists have formed a human chain across the road near the base's Gate 5 on the west side, temporarily blocking and backing up traffic.

The previous rallies have been peaceful, Erfordt said.

Activists are demanding an



Stars and Stripes

Protesters march outside Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on June 30, 2018. Several thousand are expected to demonstrate again this weekend, calling for the end to "daily drone warfare."

end to what they say is the use of the air base to relay telemetry to drones that collect information on terrorist groups and attack designated targets.

The "extrajudicial" attacks on suspected terrorists and militants violate international law and kill civilians, the group says.

Air Force officials have denied for years that any data is relayed through Ramstein for drone operations.

However, a German high court

determined in March that there were "substantial indications" known to the German government that U.S. drone missions assisted from Ramstein are at least in part "violating international law."

Base officials said at the time that no drones are launched or operated from the base as part of counterterrorism activities.

A spokeswoman for the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein said base officials are aware of the

planned demonstration and "respect the rights of others to voice their opinion and practice freedom of speech and assembly."

"Our primary aim here is to ensure a safe demonstration, both for those involved and for our" personnel and neighbors, base spokeswoman Sandra Archer said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesktown

NEW SANNO PRESENTS

taste of the
Philippines

DOORS OPEN 1630
THIRD SURF DINNER FEATURING
NATIVE FILIPINO DISHES FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY LINEAGE BAND FROM MANILA
AND CULTURAL DANCE PERFORMANCE BY FOLK DANCE GROUP INKAYOG
\$49 / PERSON
SEATY NO ONE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE PERMITTED

CHANCE TO
WIN
A ROUND TRIP
TICKET
FROM NARITA TO CLARK AIR BASE
VIA CEBU PACIFIC

Sponsored by

cebu pacific
セブパシフィック航空



WED
6pm
8pm

FAIR WINDS
SOCIAL HOUR
WEDNESDAY HUMPHRY

"A toast to Wednesday Humphry!"
Slow down. Take the time to connect, network,
relax and catch up with friends and an opportunity
to meet other in house guests.
Indulge in selected drinks and
a delicious bar snack buffet every Wednesday
at the Fairwinds Bar from 6pm - 8pm.

\$20 per person
Inquire for details 229-7151

7th of July
PATRIOTIC
SUNDAY BRUNCH



JUL 7 SUN

10:00 - 14:00
Adult \$25.95 Child \$12.95(6-12)



TOKYO, JAPAN

www.thenewsanno.com

BOOK NOW!!

229-7151, 03-3440-7871 EXT. 7151

events@thenewsanno.com

Tickets are Non-Refundable



THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

Navy to reimburse some licensing fees for spouses

By SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

Sailors can be reimbursed up to \$500 to cover the cost of their spouses' professional licenses or certifications if an assignment requires them to move to a different state, the Navy announced this week.

"This is part of an ongoing effort to show Navy families we are working to expand family support programs and facilitate spouse employment opportunities," Perry Christiansen, lead for the Navy's family readiness programs policy, said in a statement.

Each state has its own licensing requirements and fees for various professions, from doctors and lawyers to midwives and athletic trainers.

A license in one state generally can't be transferred to another, and the cost of applying for recertification in a new state can be burdensome. But without completing the process, spouses often can't work in their chosen field.

Servicemembers, not their spouses, must apply for the funds, which cover the costs of exams and registration fees.

The Army, Air Force and Marines began offering similar reimbursements last month as part of a five-year pilot program, which was approved as part of the 2018 defense budget on Dec. 12, 2017.

Military spouses who moved from one state to another after that date are eligible for the program if they had to recertify for a profession they were licensed to practice in

the previous state.

Military families returning to the U.S. from overseas qualify for the program if the spouse was licensed in one state before the overseas tour and is returning to a different state.

A report published by the Rand Corp. in 2015 found that frequent moves can make it difficult for military spouses to "find employment in occupations of their choosing ... and maintain long-term careers."

Compared with their civilian counterparts, military spouses are more likely to be unemployed or underemployed, the report said.

Advocates for military families, including Karen Pence, wife of Vice President Mike Pence, have long sought accommodations

for spouses of military servicemembers who often move on government orders. Some states waive certain fees or grant exceptions to some licensing requirements for military family members.

"Employment issues are one of the biggest challenges military spouses face, especially for those who have jobs that require licensures," Karen Pence said last fall at a forum about military spouse employment at the Association of the U.S. Army's annual meeting and exposition.

The Pentagon estimated that about 37% of military spouses in the workforce had professions requiring a state license, she said.

wyland.scott@stripes.com
Twitter: @wylandstripes

Defense to go on offensive at Navy SEAL's murder trial

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Defense lawyers planned to go on the offensive Wednesday in the murder trial of a decorated Navy SEAL charged with killing a wounded young Islamic State prisoner in Iraq and shooting at civilians.

The prosecution rested its case Tuesday in the San Diego court-martial of Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher, a Bronze Star recipient. The judge in the

case rejected a defense request to issue a summary judgment finding Gallagher not guilty of murder and attempted murder.

On Wednesday, the defense planned to show jurors videotaped testimony from an Iraqi general who handed over the fighter to Gallagher for medical treatment after the adolescent was wounded in an airstrike. The general gave videotaped testimony in June when he visited San Diego.

Prosecution witnesses, including a fellow Navy SEAL, testified that Gallagher stabbed the prisoner twice in the neck in May 2017 and that the attack could have been fatal.

Defense lawyers say testimony from the Iraqi general and other witnesses will show Gallagher isn't guilty. They already have contended that the witnesses against him offered tainted or even false testimony. They have questioned

the methodology of the chief investigator and noted the lack of a body or other physical evidence.

Prosecutors called seven SEALs from the platoon to testify in the court-martial at Naval Base San Diego that started a week ago.

One witness, Corey Scott, a medic, shocked the courtroom last week after he admitted to the killing, saying he plugged the militant's breathing tube after Gallagher stabbed the boy as an act of

mercy because he feared he would be tortured and possibly killed by Iraqi forces if he survived.

Gallagher, 40, has pleaded not guilty to murder in the case of the prisoner and attempted murder for his alleged shooting of a young girl and an elderly man in separate incidents outside Mosul. The defense said the shooting incidents were based on the accounts of one SEAL and one former SEAL, who never saw Gallagher pull the trigger.

4TH OF JULY
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

JULY 4 • 3 - 8 P.M.
YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE

ENJOY FIREWORKS, LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT, DUNKING BOOTH, BUMPER BOATS, GAMES, FOOD & DRINKS, AND MORE! FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 243-5215.

NAVY ENTERTAINMENT'S LET FREEDOM RING TOUR
JARED & THE MILL

The Department of the Navy does not endorse any company, sponsor, or their products or services.

MWR
SERVICE TO THE FLEET
YOKOSUKA

PACIFIC

Moon: US, N. Korea discussing a 3rd summit

Trump to meet with South Korean leader over stalled nuclear talks with the North

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and North Korea are holding “behind-the-scenes talks” on the possibility of a third summit, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said in remarks released Wednesday.

Moon’s comments, made Tuesday in a joint written interview with seven news agencies, came ahead of a two-day visit by President Donald Trump to Seoul beginning Saturday.

Trump will meet with Moon on Sunday to discuss stalled efforts to persuade the North to abandon its nuclear weapons.

He also is widely expected to try to travel to the heavily fortified border that divides the peninsula, but U.S. officials have dismissed speculation that a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un may also be in the works.

Moon acknowledged the breakdown of official dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang since the second summit between Trump and Kim ended without agreement in February.

But he reiterated his frequently stated stance that the summit in Hanoi, Vietnam, wasn’t a failure because it increased the understanding of the positions of each side.

The Trump administration insists it will maintain sanctions, which include unilateral measures as well as those imposed by the United Nations Security Council, until denuclearization is achieved. The North wants a reciprocal approach in which it is rewarded for steps taken.

Moon pointed to a recent exchange of letters between Trump and Kim, saying their “willingness to engage in dialogue has never faded,” according to a transcript provided by his office on Wednesday.

Moon, who has staked his legacy on forging peace with the North, also said that Washington and Pyongyang have discussed arrangements for a possible third summit although he didn’t provide details.

“It’s noteworthy that the behind-the-scenes talks have been preceded by the mutual understanding of each other’s position gained through the Hanoi summit,” he said, insisting the peace process was “still making steady progress.”

“The resumption of negotiations between North Korea and the United States will take it to the next level,” he said. “I believe everything has now fallen into place for that to happen.”

Moon was responding to questions by South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency, along with The Associated Press, Agence France-Presse, Kyodo News, Reuters, TASS and Xinhua.

Both Trump and Kim have said they’d be willing to meet again, but neither side has given any public indication that they’ve been able to bridge the gap that was exposed in Hanoi.

North Korea offered a fresh reminder of its bottom line on Wednesday, insisting it won’t “surrender” to U.S.-led sanctions imposed over its nuclear weapons program.

The state-run Korean Central News Agency posted a Foreign



Korean Central News Agency

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has said he is willing to meet again with President Donald Trump for nuclear talks. South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Wednesday that the U.S. and North Korea are discussing the possibility.

Ministry statement accusing Washington of trying “to bring us to our knees” with economic pressure.

Trump plans to travel to South Korea this weekend following an appearance at the Group of 20 meeting of rich and developing nations in Japan.

The president said Kim wrote to him on his birthday and he responded.

“He wrote me a beautiful letter on my birthday... I thought it was very nice and just two friendly letters. We get along very well,” he told reporters in the Oval Office.

When asked if there was a mention of a meeting, Trump said,

“Maybe there was, but we said sometime we’ll do that.”

The KCNA report was careful not to criticize Trump but singled out recent U.S. governmental reports criticizing the communist state over its use of forced labor and lack of religious freedom.

The Foreign Ministry also denounced Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for saying recently that more than 80% of the North Korean economy was under sanctions.

Pompeo “let loose a sophistry as if the sanctions are rendering the bilateral talks possible,” an unnamed ministry spokesperson was quoted as saying in the report.

“All these speak clearly to the fact that the wild dream of the U.S. to bring us to our knees by means of sanctions and pressure has not changed at all but grows even more undisguised,” KCNA said.

“Our state is not a country that will surrender to the U.S. sanctions, nor are we a country which the U.S. could attack whenever it desires to do so,” it added. “If anyone dares to trample over our sovereignty and the right to existence, we will not hesitate to pull a muscle-flexing trigger in order to defend ourselves.”

gamekim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kingame



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Visitors walk at the Imjingak Pavilion in South Korea, near the demilitarized zone with North Korea. A third of Americans surveyed said they would support a preemptive nuclear strike on North Korea if it tested a missile that could reach the U.S.

Poll: One-third of US would approve of preemptive nuclear strike on N. Korea

By SIMON DENVER
The Washington Post

TOKYO — More than a third of Americans would support a preemptive nuclear strike on North Korea if that country tested a long-range missile capable of reaching the United States, new research has found, even if that preemptive strike killed a million civilians.

The survey of 3,000 Americans was conducted by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and British research firm YouGov. It asked people to consider a scenario in which North Korea had tested a long-range missile and the U.S. government was considering how to respond. Most did not want their government to launch a preemptive strike, but a large minority supported such a strike, whether by conventional or nuclear weapons.

“For many of these hawks, support for an attack, even in a preventive war, does not significantly decrease when the story says that the United States would use nuclear weapons that are expected to kill 1 million North Korean civilians,” the report found.

“As we have previously found, the U.S. public exhibits only limited aversion to nuclear weapons use and a shocking willingness to support the killing of

enemy civilians.”

The United States is the only country to have used nuclear weapons in warfare, dropping bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and killing around 200,000 people.

The report was conducted in February, presumably before the breakdown of a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi at the end of that month. Since then, North Korea has tested short-range ballistic missiles, but Trump and Kim have also exchanged letters and mutual praise.

The survey presented people with a fictional news story about a North Korean long-range missile test and asked people whether they would prefer a U.S. military response across a range of different scenarios, including conventional and nuclear strikes.

They were also asked whether they would “approve” of such a strike if the president ordered it.

People would “rally around the flag,” the survey found. While 33 percent of the public would prefer a nuclear strike that would kill 15,000 North Korean civilians, 50% said they would approve if one took place. Approval ratings fell if the chances of success in preventing retaliation fell to 50%.

PACIFIC

Navy eyes Philippine shipyard as repair facility

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

A bankrupt commercial shipyard in the Philippines may present an opportunity for the Navy to reestablish itself at a major port it vacated nearly 30 years ago.

"The U.S. Navy is exploring the viability of Subic Bay Hanjin Shipyard for use as a potential repair and maintenance facility," Cmdr. Nate Christensen, the fleet deputy public affairs officer, said in an email Wednesday.

The shipyard's owner, Hanjin Philippines, declared bankruptcy earlier this year, owing \$900 million to South Korean creditors. Since then, a pair of Chinese firms have expressed an interest in buying the facility, sparking alarm in some quarters.

Subic Bay was once home to thousands of U.S. sailors and their families before the Navy vacated the bases in 1992. It's still a regular port call for U.S. warships and Marines who practice beach landings nearby in Zambales province.

The strategic harbor's importance has grown amid Chinese efforts to build military facilities on artificial islands and claim sovereignty over territory to the west in the South China Sea.

"No final decisions have been made [about the shipyard]," Christensen said.

However, retired Navy Capt. Brian Buzzell, writing in the U.S. Naval Institute News this month, said Hanjin's financial woes represent a "golden chance to return to Subic Bay."

China wasn't a naval threat when the U.S. and the Philippines negotiated their alliance in the 1940s, he wrote.

"No one foresaw the emergence of China as a political, economic, and military juggernaut that would assert historical claims to South China Sea islands, reefs, and territory," he wrote.

Navy freedom of navigation operations and Air Force overflights are not deterring Beijing from using asymmetric tactics to gradually secure de facto sovereignty over the South China Sea, he wrote.

Hanjin's Subic facility was the fifth-largest shipyard in the world, with more than 30,000 Filipino employees. Before it closed in February it had built 123 large cargo container vessels, bulk carriers

and carriers of crude oil, liquified petroleum gas and mineral ores since 2008, Buzzell wrote.

The shipyard could help the Navy's mission in the western Pacific by negating the need to send ships to Pearl Harbor for maintenance. It could also help the Navy grow its fleet to 355 ships after the closure of many U.S. shipyards in recent decades, he wrote.

"The confluence of all these factors gives the U.S. Navy a perfect opportunity to return to Subic Bay, except this time as an equal partner respecting the laws and sovereignty of the Philippines and benefitting the Filipino people and economy," Buzzell wrote.

"It also would send a strong message to Beijing that, despite its efforts, the alliance between the United States and the Philippines

is strong and unbreakable."

Patricio Abinales, a Philippines expert at the University of Hawaii said in a June 13 email that the idea of the Navy returning to Subic Bay sounded good. However, there needs to be more incentive to get the Philippine military on board, she added.

"[The U.S.] must be able to offer ... something more than just refurbished Vietnam War Coast Guard cutters," she said. "The Philippines has been able to buy jets from South Korea. So it is — financially — in a position to purchase more recent vintage destroyers ... If the US is serious about this, it needs to offer the Philippines more than just official visits and assurances and excess and old surplus."

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1

Remains of 3 Marines recovered in air crash ID'd

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The Marine Corps has identified three service-members whose remains were recovered in a salvage operation following the crash of two military aircraft late last year off the coast of Japan.

Five crewmembers of a KC-130J tanker and the pilot of an F/A-18 Hornet were killed in a mid-air collision during a nighttime training mission on Dec. 6. The Hornet's weapons officer was the sole survivor. Both aircraft were based at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

A salvage operation, which began May 27, concluded June 7 after recovering the remains as well as the KC-130J's cockpit voice and digital flight recorders.

III Marine Expeditionary Force said in a statement Wednesday that it had identified the following Marines whose remains were recovered: Lt. Col. Kevin R. Herrmann, 38, of New Bern, N.C.; Maj. James M. Brophy, 36, of Staatsburg, N.Y.; and Staff Sgt. Maximo A. Flores, 27, of Surprise, Ariz.

The remains will be released to the fallen Marines' families in accordance with their wishes, III MEF said in its statement.

The bodies of Cpl. Daniel E. Baker, 21, of Tremont, Ill., and Cpl. William C. Ross, 21, of Hendersonville, Tenn., were not recovered, the statement said.

The Hornet pilot, Capt. Jahmar Resilard, 28, was pronounced dead after being found by a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship the day after the crash.

The cause of the collision remains under investigation, III MEF said in its statement.

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1

NOW OPEN TO ALL DOD ID CARD HOLDERS!



EDELWEISS
LODGE and RESORT



BIKE
HIKE
GOLF
SWIM
TOUR
DINE
RAFT
SOAR
WALK
SOAK
FEST
REST

Safe, affordable and memorable
vacations for service-members,
retirees, civilians and their families.

www.EdelweissLodgeandResort.com

* visit website for complete eligibility requirements

VETERANS

Benefits: Most important problem is lack of accredited advocates

FROM FRONT PAGE

Despite that, the VA employs only one person to reach out to tribes in the state. That person's workload also includes all of Colorado, Arizona and Utah.

Scott, who works as chairman of the Veterans and Military Law Section of the Federal Bar Association, has spent much of her long career advocating for more assistance for tribal veterans. At 78, she travels to reservations across the country, offers assistance and reports to Congress about what she sees.

She's described to lawmakers a general lack of awareness among Native American veterans about VA services and how to get them, as well as their limited access to trained advocates and higher than expected rates of denial of veterans' claims.

"We believe American Indians are an underrepresented and underserved group worthy of prompt and greater attention by our government," she wrote in one report to Congress. "Our bottom-line conclusion is that our Indian veterans deserve better than they are currently receiving from the government of the country they served."

Among a host of inequities, the most important problem to address, Scott said, is a VA policy that prevents tribes from having their own accredited advocates who can log into VA systems and help veterans and their families with benefits claims — a process that is notoriously time-consuming and complex.

If the policy were changed, issues such as health care, economic opportunity and education among tribal veterans would "readily fall into place," Scott said.

Hampered by regulations

Among the handmade jewelry, weavings and pottery inside the art gallery and shop on his home pueblo, Michael Montoya's eyes settled on a small sculpture — a depiction of a Native American man, arms outstretched, symbolically lifting up his tribe.

"That's how I feel," Montoya said. "Like it's all on my shoulders."

Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo is nestled along the Rio Grande River in north-central New Mexico. The volcanic Jemez Mountains rise to the west and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the east. To the north, Carson National Forest stretches across 1.5 million acres to the Colorado border.

The main street of Ohkay Owingeh is one block of adobe-style buildings, including the art gallery, a Catholic church and tribal headquarters. On one end of the block is Montoya's office, a squat building that once housed the tribal court.

This year ago, Montoya repurposed it as a meeting place for veterans from Ohkay Owingeh and neighboring pueblos. He uses the space to help them through the process of securing disability compensation and other VA benefits.

In this pocket of country 30 miles from Santa Fe, Montoya is



'Here we are, the ethnic race who has most served this country, and yet we're the least recognized and assisted.'

Michael Montoya
advocate for veterans on Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo

Ohkay Owingeh

The Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo is located in north-central New Mexico, 25 miles north of Santa Fe. According to the State of New Mexico, the population is 6,748. Michael Montoya, the former lieutenant governor for the pueblo, said 174 veterans currently live there. Ohkay Owingeh is a Tewa-speaking pueblo. In the Tewa language, its name means "Place of the Strong People."



BY SCHILLING/STARS AND STRIPES

the only person who provides that kind of support. He does it on a voluntary basis, spending evenings at the office after his full-time job working construction.

The 60-year-old Army veteran speaks with the cynical tone of a man who has long dealt with sprawling bureaucracies, but when it comes to veterans in his community he has the keenness of a tribal leader eager to help.

VA regulations limit what Montoya can do. His one-man operation doesn't qualify to be recognized as a tribal organization or be accredited through the VA — credentials he needs in order to log into the VA system and file and track claims.

Sometimes, he said, it feels like he's on his own.

"Here we are, the ethnic race who has most served this country, and yet we're the least recognized and assisted," Montoya said.

In November, Montoya invited Scott to lead a workshop with veterans and families in his pueblo. Paul Sullivan, who does veteran outreach with the law firm Bergmann & Moore in Bethesda, Md., accompanied her.

Veterans were called into the small conference room one at a time from a larger room across the hall where they waited, some for half a day for assistance.

Word got out in the pueblos

about the first workshop, and the demand for another drew Scott and Sullivan back to New Mexico in April. Both times, Montoya took detailed notes about what kind of records the veterans needed and the paperwork he could help them file, even without access to VA systems.

"It's one thing for Carol (Scott), as an attorney, to go there and help veterans. But what's most important is the Native Americans on or near reservations have their own trained, accredited and culturally competent advocates," Sullivan said. "Otherwise, they have to depend on everyone else."

He added, "They have advocates with heart — they absolutely have heart — but they need accreditation."

A dead-end effort

The VA allows individuals with federal, state and local organizations to log into VA systems to file and track benefits claims. In March 2017, after realizing the gap in resources for Native American veterans, the VA announced it would give the same credence to tribes.

The agency altered its regulations and opened applications for groups to receive a designation through the VA as a "tribal organization," positioning it as an avenue for veterans to get support where they live from people who understand their cultural distinctions.

"Often, these veterans cannot reach existing veterans service organizations or may not be using them due to cultural barriers," the VA wrote at the time. "It is believed that accredited tribal organizations can provide Veterans with better, more culturally competent services."

Scott, who had been pushing the VA for a regulation change, was optimistic. He quickly realized, however, that the requirements were unduly burdensome.

The outcome? What was supposed to be an easier path to benefits for Native American veterans has been a dead end.

Since the VA began accepting applications two years ago, only three tribe-affiliated groups have applied. One was rejected, and another has waited longer than a year for an answer. The third couldn't be reached for comment, but the VA said a final approval decision hadn't been made for it, either.

One of those three groups is the Rocky Boy Veterans Center in Box Elder, Mont., 40 miles from the Canadian border. The group assists veterans across north-central Montana.

Chauncey Parker, of the Chipewya Cree Tribe, is the organiza-

tion's executive director. He's 36 and a major in the Army National Guard, which he has been part of for half of his life.

He doesn't know Montoya, but like him, Parker believes he was called to assist veterans in his tribe. The Rocky Boy Reservation was home to 176 veterans in 2011. Of those, 36% had been identified as having physical or mental health problems.

While doing research last year for the VA's process to be recognized as a tribal organization. For now, the reservation's only hands-on help with tracking and filing claims comes from Montana Veterans Affairs, which sends a state representative one day each month.

Parker applied in April 2018. As of January — the last update heard from the VA — the department said it was still reviewing his submission.

The veterans department for the Seneca Nation of Indians in New York also applied for the designation over a year ago but was denied. Department director Tishsena Jimerson said. The reason given by the VA was that her organization was too small, she said.

"I think it would have helped to be able to access and file claims of our offices," Jimerson said in an email. "Otherwise, we offer the assistance but do not have access to claims like service officers/service organizations do."

Problems with VA policy

Scott has made it her life's work to advocate for veterans. A critical component has always been directed toward Native American veterans, in particular.

She married Michael Allen, of the Assiniboine Tribe of Montana, a Vietnam War veteran born and raised on the Fort Belknap Reservation there.

The first time Scott visited Allen's home, she came across a veteran attempting to hitchhike to the closest VA hospital for chemotherapy. At the time, the nearest facility was 300 miles away in Helena.

The moment surprised and alarmed her, and Scott credits it for inspiring her career.

These days, Scott is a regular on the streets of Helena, easily spotted walking from office to office with the help of her hand-carved spiral cane, her long, gray hair swept into a bun and turquoise and silver rings adorning every finger.

Her primary mission has been to push Congress and the VA to develop an avenue for tribes to be their own advocates.

"The single most important issue with tribal veterans is the utter failure of the VA to provide for accreditation," Scott said.

Chances are the VA established in 2017 wasn't the answer Scott had hoped it would be.

The regulations say that for a tribe to have representatives trained and accredited through the VA, they must establish and fund an organization that has the sole purpose of assisting veterans and survivors with their claims.

Scott and the Veterans and Military Law Section of the Federal Bar Association have argued the rules are discriminatory and infringe on tribal sovereignty. The federal VA doesn't require state departments to be certified as organizations, so it shouldn't require it of tribes, Scott said.

When the process was proposed in 2017, Scott predicted fewer than 1% of the nation's 500 tribes would be able to apply. So far — with just three applicants — she was right.

"The First Peoples of this country serve and have served since before the Revolutionary War in far greater proportion than any other ethnic group in spite of the violation of every treaty into which they have entered," Scott wrote to the VA at the time. "They are entitled to meaningful access to all the benefits and services to which their brothers and sisters in arms are entitled. They deserve better."

Montoya also wrote to the VA after the department first proposed the rules. He was supportive of any way to receive training and accreditation, but he expressed concern about the funding requirements.

When Montoya served as Ohkay Owingeh's lieutenant governor in 2015, he saw the need for a representative to help veterans and their families access VA benefits. First, he asked for and received a computer, and then a printer. Eventually, his program took over the tribal office's computer but not the operation.

The operation continues with the help of grants and his willingness to be a volunteer, not a paid advocate.

"I'm in a period of no funding right now," Montoya said. "I'm doing the construction thing because the bills don't stop coming."

A possible turning point

The issue of accrediting tribal advocates is being taken up by Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians, the largest indigenous rights organization in the country.

The group is hosting a mid-year conference this week in Shoshone, Nev., where Keel planned to bring up the problem with representatives from the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations.

Keel, of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, served in the Vietnam War, which led to a 20-year Army career. He's a former platoon leader and instructor for the Army Rangers. Since his retirement, he's been heavily involved on national boards and committees that aim to protect and improve the quality of life in Indian Country.

"We've been asking for the VA to certify native veterans because, you know, we see it as a real necessity," Keel said. "We've got people who are totally competent to get into the system and know how to process veterans claims sometimes better than those who are certified by the state. They're closer to the culture and understand the need for veterans in their local communities."

SEE BENEFITS ON PAGE 9

VETERANS

Benefits: Senate introduced bill to improve VA outreach to Native Americans

FROM PAGE 8

Scott is also there to talk to the group at large Thursday. She hasn't seen much progress on this issue, but there have been recent indications of increased awareness.

After years of advocacy for Native American veterans, Scott senses a turning point.

"I've been going up on the Hill for over 10 years, and only now are people beginning to listen," she said. "We finally have the ear of staff on the Hill of the Joint Affairs Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee, and I'm working with both of them to try now to do something about this mess."

She credits some of that success to Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., the new chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. In his first few months in the job, he has turned his attention toward overlooked minority groups, often listing them among his top priorities.

Takano tasked his staff this past spring "to better understand the hurdles that Native American veterans face in attaining earned VA disability benefits." Staff members are now reaching out to gather information about their specific challenges.

In the Senate, lawmakers introduced legislation this week to improve VA outreach to Native Americans. It was led by Sens. Jon Tester, D-Mont.; Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska; Tom Udall, D-N.M.; and Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, all from states with large Native American populations.

The measure establishes a VA Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs to "facilitate communication and understanding about veterans' barriers to VA services. Its 15 members would meet face-to-face with the VA secretary and send to Congress recommendations for bettering Native American veterans' access to VA health care and benefits.

The Tribal Advisory Committee Act was discussed at a Senate hearing in May, but it hasn't been taken to the floor for a vote nor has it gained traction in the House.

In addition to a handful of lawmakers, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has recently given some attention to the issue.

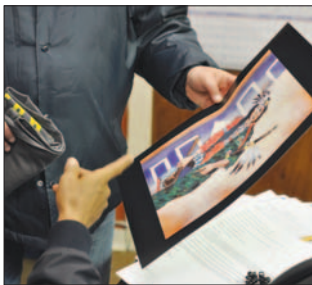
"One of my programs is to go to states that I believe have been ignored by both parties, both Republican and Democratic administrations, and that's Wilkie said that during a visit to Alaska he asked the Alaska Federation of Natives to double the number of tribal representatives who specialize in veterans' issues. The federation is a nonprofit that advocates for Alaska Native people.

He has not spoken publicly about boosting the VA's resources for Alaska Native outreach.

Few existing resources

The VA has an Office of Tribal Government Relations, which the agency has recently touted as producing results. But there are indications that success exists only on paper.

VA Press Secretary Curt Cashour said the outreach office and other VA staff held 32 claims clinics in 2018 with 24 tribal governments, producing 730 benefits claims. He asserted in an email that the office's outreach efforts were working.



NIKKI WENTLING/Stars and Stripes

Paul Sullivan, who works in veteran outreach for the law firm Bergmann & Moore, picks up artwork in 2018 depicting a Native American servicemember. A Senate bill would establish a VA Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs.

However, at least one staff member in the field has called for more resources to make a real difference.

The office has been appropriated an annual budget of \$1.2 million — less than 1% of the VA's total budget for fiscal 2019, which surpassed \$200 billion.

Speaking at a clinic in Missoula, Mont., in April, Peter Vicaire, a member of the office, said, "We do the best with the money and time we have."

The office has six people, including five field staff who are responsible for communicating with hundreds of tribes across the country. Vicaire is responsible for 14 states, from Montana to Massachusetts. The remaining states are split between four other employees.

Vicaire is a member of the Listugui Mi'gmaq First Nation in Quebec, Canada, and a former U.S. Marine. He earned American and Canadian law degrees, with specialization in indigenous law.

"We're a tiny office with a big job, so sometimes it's really difficult," Vicaire said. "If Congress could tell VA to give us more money to hire more people so we can better cover the tribes that we're assigned, that would be fantastic." At the same meeting in Missoula, Robert Davis, the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, also lamented the office's size and budget.

Davis, a Navy veteran, has held a seat on the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for nearly 15 years and is expected to retire at the end of 2019.

"You're in an office of six people as I understand it, and your responsibility is to travel across the country to meet with tribes. That seems like almost an impossibility," Davis said. "The VA budget is huge, billions of dollars. To devote such scant resources to Native American tribal matters, to me, is ridiculous. It is shameful."

With decades of experience, Scott continues traveling to reservations across the country and walking the halls of Congress, where she tells lawmakers and their staffs of her belief that tribes, given their own credentialed advocates, would be better off as a whole. Benefits from the VA would bring money and educational opportunities into these communities, she said.

While she believes the culmination of her work is closer than it's ever been, sometimes it still feels out of sight.

"This battle seems never-ending to me at times — even when there is a glimmer of light in the far distance," she said.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

Veteran behind Blue Water case sees resolution

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Alfred Procopio Jr. said he learned perseverance from his parents, who "never took no for an answer."

"He was very tenacious," Procopio said of his father. "He didn't give up. My mother, she was a fighter, too. I was raised that way — to stand up for what you believe."

It's that spirit that kept Procopio pursuing his case, through years of rejection, to prove to the federal government that his chronic illnesses were caused by exposure to Agent Orange during his service in the Vietnam War.

Procopio, a so-called Blue Water Navy veteran, worked aboard the USS Intrepid, an aircraft carrier that went into the territorial seas off the coast of Vietnam.

Blue water veterans — who served on open sea ships off the shore of Vietnam but did not step foot on land — have been blocked for decades from the same Department of Veterans Affairs benefits afforded those who served in Vietnam or its inland waterways. The government argued there wasn't enough evidence that poisonous herbicides contaminated the water used on their ships.

That changed in January, when Procopio won his case.

The Department of Justice decided in May to not challenge the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in favor of Blue Water veterans. Congress approved legislation this month clarifying that those veterans are eligible for VA disability benefits. Lawmakers sent the bill to the White House, and President Donald Trump signed it into law Tuesday night.

The name "Procopio" represents a major victory for tens of thousands of Vietnam War veterans thanks to the case, Procopio v. Wilkie.

The man himself is happy about the court decision but unsure whether he'll be around long enough to reap much of its payoff. He was 61 when this process began. Next month, he'll be 74.

Procopio served as a ship electrician on the USS Intrepid starting in 1964, and in 1966 the aircraft

carrier was deployed to the waters off Vietnam.

About 15 years ago, he developed diabetes. Not long after, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

After his diagnoses, Procopio began to research Agent Orange, a chemical known to cause heart disease, Parkinson's, diabetes and several types of cancer.

Procopio filed his first Agent Orange-related claim with the VA in October 2006 for diabetes. In October 2007, he filed another claim, this time for prostate cancer.

The VA denied both in April 2009.

He sought a reversal from the Board of Veterans' Appeals but was denied twice — the first time in March 2011.

In 2014, John Wells, an attorney and retired Navy commander, took Procopio's case.

Wells took Procopio's case back to the Board of Veterans' Appeals, which denied him for the second time in July 2015.

The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, which reviews VA decisions, ruled against Procopio in November 2016.

"I appealed and appealed and appealed," Procopio said. "I had a doctor who told me if I didn't keep fighting, they weren't going to listen — to keep on pushing. That's been good advice."

On Jan. 29, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit decided the case in Procopio's favor.

At issue was interpretation of the current law, which allows easier access to disability benefits for veterans who "served in the Republic of Vietnam" and suffer from one of a list of illnesses presumptively linked to Agent Orange.

The court determined territorial seas should be included in the definition of "Republic of Vietnam" — a point the government disputed.

Procopio is cancer-free. However, in the time since his 13-year battle with the VA began, he developed a heart condition that he assumes is also related to his Vietnam War service.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

NEW IN PACIFIC?

To get your free Stars and Stripes Welcome to the Pacific magazine.

Contact us at CustomerHelp@stripes.com

Local culture and customs • Language • Food
Public transportation • and more!



MILITARY

Leader: Iran won't change despite new US sanctions

BY NASSER KARIMI
AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's supreme leader said Wednesday that Iranians will not budge or change their stand following new U.S. sanctions targeting Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his associates, the latest in a torrent of sharp verbal responses from Tehran in the wake of the measures.

President Donald Trump enacted the new sanctions against Khamenei and others on Monday and U.S. officials also said they plan sanctions against Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

The sanctions followed Iran's downing last week of a U.S. surveillance drone, worth over \$100 million, over the Strait of Hormuz, sharply escalating the crisis.

The top Iranian cleric's website quoted Khamenei as calling the Trump administration "the most sinister" U.S. government, adding that Washington's calls for negotiation with Iran are deceitful and amount to "obvious cruelty."

"The most hated figures of such an administration accuse and insult the Iranian nation," Khamenei said. "The Iranian nation will not budge and will not withdraw because of the insults."

The crisis gripping the Middle

East stems from Trump's withdrawal of the United States a year ago from the nuclear deal between Iran and other world powers and then imposing crippling new sanctions on Tehran.

Recently, Iran quadrupled its production of low-enriched uranium to be on pace to break one of the deal's terms by Thursday, while also threatening to raise enrichment closer to weapons-grade levels on July 7 if European countries still abiding by the accord don't offer a new deal.

Iran warned that the new U.S. sanctions targeting Khamenei and other officials meant "closing the doors of diplomacy" between Tehran and Washington. President Hassan Rouhani derided the White House as being "afflicted by mental retardation."

Trump called that a "very ignorant and insulting statement," tweeting that an Iranian attack on any U.S. interest will be met with "great and overwhelming force... overwhelming will mean obliteration."

After the downing of the U.S. drone last week, Trump pulled back from the brink of retaliatory military strikes but continued his pressure campaign against Iran.

The drone shutdown was only the latest in a series of attacks in the region in recent months. The U.S. has blamed Iran for the at-



OFFICE OF THE IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER/AP

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting with judiciary officials in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday. He said Iranians will not budge or change their stance following the new U.S. sanctions targeting Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his associates.

‘The Iranian nation will not budge and will not withdraw because of the insults.’

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
Iran's supreme leader

tacks on two oil tankers, alleging that it used limpet mines to target the tankers, pointing to black-and-white footage it captured that officials describe as Iranian Revolutionary Guard troops removing an unexploded mine from a Japanese-operated tanker.

Similarly, four oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates were apparently targeted in acts of sabotage, which U.S. officials have also blamed on

Iran. Tehran denied the charges. And in mid-May, Iranian-allied Yemeni rebels claimed they were behind a drone attack on a Saudi oil pipeline.

Late Tuesday, Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi told reporters that American officials contacted the Iraqis recently, alleging the drones used in that Saudi pipeline attack, which took place on May 14, may have taken off from Iraq.

Air Force vet freed in Libya

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — An American Air Force veteran who was accused of acting as a mercenary in Libya has been freed after a six-week detention in a murky episode that highlights the tangled nature of that country's civil war, officials said Tuesday.

Jamie Sponaugle, a 31-year-old Florida man, was piloting an aircraft near the Libyan capital of Tripoli on May 7 when his plane went down, according to officials and individuals familiar with the incident, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The Libyan National Army said it shot down the aircraft, which it said was a Mirage F1 combat jet piloted by a man The Washington Post is now identifying as Sponaugle, as it conducted bombing raids against LNA forces in the area. The Washington Post withheld publication of Sponaugle's detention at the request of U.S. officials who were working to secure his release.

The LNA is one of two factions locked in a yearslong fight for control of Libyan territory and government institutions, a conflict that has plunged the country into a protracted limbo and erased much of the hope created by the 2011 revolution.

The apparent involvement of an American military veteran in an ongoing battle for Tripoli between the LNA and its rival, the U.N.-backed Government of National Accord, illustrates the complexity of a long-smoldering conflict that has emerged as a major global proxy war involving illicit arms and dueling accusations of mercenary use.

It also draws attention to the shifting U.S. policy on Libya. While senior Trump administration officials have devoted limited time to Libya, the president appeared to spend years of steady support for the Tripoli-based GNA in April when he publicly praised Khalifa Hifter, the strongman who heads the rival LNA.

"We are always pleased to see Americans held captive overseas rescued, and their friends and family," Ambassador Robert O'Brien, President Donald Trump's envoy for hostage affairs, said in a phone interview. "We appreciate his captors' decision to release him. We also thank the kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its role in resolving this case."

Officials said that Sponaugle was flown on Tuesday to Saudi Arabia, where he is expected to meet with U.S. consular officials and undergo a medical and psychiatric examination. Neither the LNA nor the GNA provided an immediate comment.

According to an individual familiar with Sponaugle's case, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman took an interest in the captive American once Saudi officials learned he was being detained, and asked subordinate officials to get involved. The Saudi government did not pay the LNA for his release, the individual said.

US, allies warn Russia missiles may be bolstered

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The U.S.-led NATO alliance will consider bolstering its air and missile defense systems in Europe as well as enhancing its conventional forces if Russia doesn't abolish a new missile system that poses a threat to the continent, the alliance's top official said Wednesday.

"An arms control agreement doesn't work if it is only respected by one side," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Wednesday. "This is extremely serious."

Stoltenberg's comments came at the start of a meeting of NATO defense ministers, including acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper, who is in Brussels to convene with allies.

NATO's new measures to counter Russia are expected to take effect if Moscow doesn't comply with the landmark 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty by Aug. 2 deadline. If the treaty breaks apart, "Russia bares the full responsibility," Stoltenberg said.

Last year, the United States warned it would pull out of the Cold War-era pact by August unless Moscow comes back into compliance with the treaty that bans missiles with a range between 310 and 3,400 miles. The United States and its allies in NATO contend Russia's SSC-8 missile system violates the weapons ban and poses a new threat. The weapon is nuclear capable, has short warning times and

could hit European capitals within minutes, Stoltenberg said.

Moscow has denied the system violates the treaty and has warned it will take counter measures in light of the U.S. decision to withdraw from the ban.

Another underlying U.S. concern regarding the INF treaty is it applies only to the United States and Russia, but China's military emergence has sparked worries that Beijing is free to develop systems that the United States is banned from developing. In January, China tested an intermediate-range missile dubbed "the Guam killer," which purportedly has enough range to strike U.S. bases in the Pacific.

But in Europe, some analysts have warned the collapse of the treaty could affect the military balance and usher in a dangerous new era of nuclear brinkmanship. Allies have downplayed such concerns, saying NATO has no plan to deploy new ground-based, nuclear capable, missiles in Europe.

If they don't come back into compliance, we need to respond. So we also need to prepare for a world without the INF Treaty," Stoltenberg said at the start of talks at NATO's Brussels headquarters.

Stoltenberg did not detail how NATO would adapt its missile defenses in Europe, but one option could be to modify and enhance its existing networks to counter the new Russian threat.

Reconfiguring the alliance's missile defense system also is likely to ratchet up tensions with Moscow. For years, Russia has complained about the NATO ballistic missile defense system, which allies say is designed to counter threats emanating from countries such as Iran. But Moscow has always been suspicious of the system and feared it was an attempt to blunt Russia's own nuclear deterrent capabilities.

Over the years, allies have attempted to defuse Russian concerns about the system's limitations — namely that its interceptors are too few and located too far south or too close to Russia to be able to intercept Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles.

NATO's missile defense setup, however, could be enhanced, if allies agree.

U.S. military capabilities in Europe are the core of NATO's missile defense system. It includes a U.S. Army-manned radar positioned on a mountain top in Turkey, a U.S. Aegis site at Deveselu Air Base in Romania, another U.S. site in Poland and four Aegis destroyers based out of Rota, Spain.

Next week, NATO will hold a meeting with Russian officials with the talks likely to center on how to salvage the INF treaty.

"They still have the chance to save the treaty," Stoltenberg said. "Time is running out, but it is still possible for Russia."

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

MILITARY

Japan dismisses report about Trump remarks

President reportedly spoke of ending defense pact

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The Japanese government has dismissed a U.S. media report saying that President Donald Trump spoke of ending the two nations' long-standing postwar defense pact.

Bloomberg News, citing anonymous sources, reported Monday that Trump had

privately mused about withdrawing from the "one-sided" security treaty with the United States' longtime ally.

The president thinks the accord is unfair because it promises U.S. aid if Japan is attacked but doesn't obligate Japan to come to America's defense, the Bloomberg report said.

However, Japan's chief Cabinet secretary, Yoshihide Suga, told reporters at a

news conference in Tokyo on Tuesday that "there is no such talk as mentioned in the report."

"We have confirmation from the White House that it is inconsistent with the U.S. government's stance," Suga said.

The U.S.-Japan alliance is the basis of Japan's security and diplomatic policy, and the two countries have been cooperating closely for international peace and stability, he said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono also said the White House had denied the

report.

"The White House has told us that they are absolutely not considering withdrawing or revising the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and that the report is inconsistent with the U.S. government's stance," he said during a separate news conference Tuesday.

There are about 54,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan.

kusumoto.hana@stripes.com
Twitter: @HanaKusumoto

Graves of US servicemembers found on WWII battlefield

By AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press

HONOLULU — A nonprofit organization that searches for the remains of U.S. servicemen lost in past conflicts has found what officials believe are the graves of more than 30 Marines and sailors killed in one of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

A team working on the remote Pacific atoll of Tarawa found the graves in March, said Mark Noah, president of History Flight.

The remains are believed to belong to Marines and sailors from the 6th Marine Regiment killed during the last night of the three-day Battle of Tarawa.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency expects to pick up the remains and fly them to Hawaii next month, said Dr. John Byrd, director of the agency's laboratories.

Military forensic anthropologists will then work to identify them using dental records, DNA and other clues.

More than 990 U.S. Marines and 30 U.S. sailors were killed in the 1943 Battle of Tarawa after the U.S. launched an amphibious assault on the small island some 2,300 miles southwest of Honolulu.

Marines and sailors quickly encountered Japanese machine-gun fire when their boats got stuck on the reef at low tide. Americans who made it to the beach faced brutal hand-to-hand combat.

The U.S. military buried its men in makeshift cemeteries where they fell. But Navy construction battalion sailors removed markers for the graves when they hurriedly built runways and other infrastructure to help U.S. forces push farther west across the Pacific toward Japan.

History Flight has recovered the remains of 272 individuals from Tarawa since 2015, when it began excavating under a contract with the Defense Department, Noah said. He estimates there are at least another 270 to be found.

Tarawa is now part of the Republic of Kiribati. Its government allowed History Flight to demolish an abandoned building in its latest search. Many of the



Graves of U.S. servicemen are shown under the water table in Tarawa, Kiribati, where the nonprofit organization History Flight has found what are believed to be the graves of Marines and sailors killed in the World War II Battle of Tarawa.

ERIC ALBERTSON, DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY; HISTORY FLIGHT/AP

History Flight has recovered the remains of 272 individuals from Tarawa since 2015. An estimated 270 are yet to be found.

graves were underneath it.

A large number of graves also are below the water table, meaning History Flight workers must pump water from the site each day to excavate.

Byrd said the Army Graves Registration Service excavated some of Tarawa's temporary cemeteries in the late 1940s but left behind parts of individuals during this process.

History Flight is now thoroughly excavating the gravesites, leading them to find some partial remains that have been matched with those already buried as "unknowns" in a national cemetery in Honolulu.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency dug up these remains in 2017 to make additional identifications.

The agency has identified more than 100 individuals excavated from Tarawa and the Honolulu cemetery since 2015.



Boards and wrecked amphibious tractors litter a battlefield in November 1943 after U.S. Marines from the 2nd Division forced back the Japanese on Betio island on the Tarawa Atoll, Kiribati.

INJURED?

CIVILIAN WORKERS

(INCLUDING NON-US CITIZENS)

KNOW AND PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS
D.B.A./N.A.F. ATTORNEYS

www.injuredoverseas.com

Phone: 954.920.7400

US Toll Free: 888.732.7425

LAW OFFICES OF BARNETT & LERNER, P.A.

FREE CONSULTATION

ABC
your TRAVEL SERVICE



You need a getaway?
What about a cruise!

Royal Caribbean

Western Caribbean Cruise

from **696€**



Just give us a call

0621-72920

www.abctravel.de

Based on availability. ABC Travel Service e.K., Gönnerheide 5, 68309 Mannheim

NATION

Senate, House not united with border aid deadline near

By ANDREW TAYLOR
AND ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A House-passed \$4.5 billion emergency border aid package faces a dim future in the GOP-held Senate, the chamber's top Republican said Wednesday, as pressure builds to wrap up the measure before the government runs out of money to care for thousands of migrant families and unaccompanied children.

The House passed its version with relative ease — but along party lines — Tuesday night after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi quelled a mini-revolt by progressives and Hispanic lawmakers who won relatively modest changes to the legislation. The funding is urgently needed to prevent the humanitarian emergency on the U.S.-Mexico border from worsening.

The 230-195 House vote sets up a showdown with the Republican-led Senate, which may try instead to force Democrats to send President Donald Trump a different, and broadly bipartisan, companion measure in coming days as the chambers race to finish the

must-do legislation by the end of the week.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the House bill is a dead letter in the Senate.

"It's a go-nowhere proposal filled with poison pill riders which the president has indicated he would veto," McConnell said Tuesday. "They had to drag their bill way to the left to earn the support of most Democrats. As a result, the House has not made much progress toward actually making a law, just more resistance theater."

McConnell appears to face two basic options: trying to "jam" the House with the Senate measure or accepting some changes sought by Democrats and avoiding a fight with Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

"The Senate has a good bill. Our bill is much better," Pelosi, D-Calif., told her Democratic colleagues in a meeting Tuesday morning.

"We passed a great bill so just go tell the Senate that they should pass the same bill," House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., said Wednesday. Turning more seri-



Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks about immigration following a Senate policy luncheon on Tuesday amidst an impasse over funding legislation.

ously, Lowey acknowledged that the congressional endgame on the measure "is really not clear right now."

The House bill contains more than \$1 billion to shelter and feed migrants detained by the border patrol and almost \$3 billion to care for unaccompanied migrant children who are turned over to the Department of Health and Human Services. It seeks to mandate improved standards of care at HHS "influx shelters" that house children waiting to be placed with sponsors such as family members in the U.S.

Both House and Senate bills ensure funding could not be shifted to Trump's border wall and would block information on sponsors of immigrant children from being used to deport them. Trump would be denied additional funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention beds.

Only three House Republicans backed the measure. The only

four Democratic "no" votes came from some of the party's most left-leaning freshmen women: Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, of New York; Ilhan Omar, of Minnesota; Ayanna Pressley, of Massachusetts; and Rashida Tlaib, of Michigan.

The White House has threatened to veto the House bill, saying it would hamstring the administration's border security efforts, and is only reluctantly backing the Senate measure — which received only a single "nay" vote during a committee vote last week.

Congress plans to leave Washington in a few days for a week-long July 4 recess, and pressure is intense to wrap up the legislation before then. Agencies are about to run out of money, and failure to act could bring a swift political rebuke and accusations of ignoring the plight of innocent immigrant children.

Image of drowned dad, girl resonates

The Washington Post

Valeria is much shorter than her father. But face down in a muddy Rio Grande riverbank, her head is level with his, and her thin arm wraps around his neck as if they embraced one last time as they drowned.

Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and his 23-month-old daughter, both Salvadoran migrants, were swept away in the river waters in a last-ditch attempt to reach Brownsville, Texas, on Monday.

A photo of their bodies among matted reeds was published by the Mexican newspaper La Jornada and later by The Associated Press, shocking the world in a viscerally clear moment of desperation and reminiscent of a photograph showing a 3-year-old Syrian boy who lay drowned on a calm Mediterranean shore.

Martinez and his daughter were met by fast-moving waters, and an asylum system unprepared for the crush of Central Americans fleeing violence and poverty.

The family was unable to present themselves to immigration authorities to claim asylum and instead braved the floodwaters to reach the United States, wrote Julia Le Duc, the La Jornada reporter.

Martinez sat down his daughter on the U.S. side of the river and doubled back for his wife, Tania Vanessa Avalos, Le Duc wrote. But the girl watching from the river's edge jumped into the river after her father. He reached her, but the raging current took them under.

Their bodies were found several hundred yards from the crossing, the AP reported.

As the photograph rocketed across social media, it became a symbol of the large-scale humanitarian crisis at the border and, for some, a condemnation of the Trump administration's restrictive immigration policies.

"Absolutely heartbreaking," Democratic presidential candidate Julian Castro said on Twitter. Families are fleeing desperate conditions to find refuge, only for the doors to be shut in their face. We need a more sensible, compassionate immigration system that doesn't criminalize desperation."

Beto O'Rourke, who is also running for president, said simply, "Trump is responsible for these deaths."

"As his administration refuses to follow our laws — preventing refugees from presenting themselves for asylum at our ports of entry — they cause families to cross between ports, ensuring greater suffering & death," he continued in a tweet. "At the expense of our humanity, not to the benefit of our safety."

TSA: Workers being diverted to southern border

The Washington Post

Under direction from the White House, the Transportation Security Administration plans to divert more than 600 workers from airport security to enforce immigration policies along the southern border.

Meanwhile, several airport security vulnerabilities identified in numerous reports by the inspector general and Government Accountability Office remain unresolved, lawmakers heard Tuesday at a hearing of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

The hearing was intended to raise questions about the security reports and why they remain unresolved, and whether they were affected by President Donald Trump's drive to secure the southern border against illegal immigration.

Nearly 200 TSA security personnel already have been dispatched, along with 172 federal air marshals, said the committee's chairman,

Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md.

Cummings said an additional 294 TSA employees — from an overall workforce of 63,000 TSA personnel — were about to be dispatched to the border.

"It will have no effect on aviation security," TSA Administrator David Pekoske told the committee. "Border security is national security. This is a crisis. I have to balance off the risk at the southern border with the need to keep airports staffed."

Said Cummings, "Today, nearly 20 years after the terrible attacks of September 11, 2001, we are holding this hearing to examine why urgent warnings from independent auditors about security vulnerabilities at the Transportation Security Administration have been languishing for years without being resolved."

He pointed to a report released by the Government Accountability Office two months

ago that said none of the "nine security vulnerabilities identified through covert tests" since 2015 "had been formally resolved" as of September 2018.

"Unfortunately, this is part of a larger trend," Cummings said. "TSA also has failed to address warnings from the inspector general. As of this month, 37 recommendations made by the inspector general from 12 reports on aviation security remain open and unfulfilled. Several of those are many years old."

The hearing bristled with partisan contention, with top Republican Rep. Jim Jordan, of Ohio, responding: "The chairman is asking why the administration is sending TSA personnel to the border? Because there's a crisis."

Jordan said that a single drug bust on the southern border seized "enough fentanyl to kill 57 million Americans."

that helping support the amazing men and women of CBP has been the most fulfilling and satisfying opportunity of my career," he said.

Hours after Sanders' departure became public, two officials told The Associated Press that he was being replaced by Mark Morgan, who was named acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement just last month. The officials were not authorized to

Border official resigns amid uproar over migrant children

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The acting head of U.S. Customs and Border Protection resigned Tuesday amid an uproar over the discovery of migrant children being held in pitiful conditions at one of the agency's stations in Texas.

Acting Commissioner John Sanders' departure deepened the sense of crisis and added to the rapid turnover inside the agen-

cies responsible for enforcing President Donald Trump's hard-line immigration priorities as the U.S. deals with record numbers of migrant families coming across the border.

In a message to employees, Sanders said he would step down on July 5. He did not give a reason.

"Although I will leave it to you to determine whether I was successful, I can unequivocally say

NATION

Mueller agrees to provide public testimony

After receiving subpoenas, former special counsel to appear before 2 House panels

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK,
ERIC TUCKER
AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former special counsel Robert Mueller has agreed to testify publicly before Congress on July 17 after Democrats issued subpoenas to compel him to appear, the chairmen of two House committees announced.

Mueller's unusual back-to-back testimony in front of the House Judiciary and Intelligence committees is likely to be the most highly anticipated congressional hearing in years, particularly given Mueller's resolute silence throughout his two-year investigation into Russian contacts with President Donald Trump's campaign. Mueller never responded to angry, public attacks from Trump, nor did he ever personally join his prosecutors in court or make announcements of criminal charges from the team.

His sole public statement came from the Justice Department podium last month as he announced his departure, when he sought to explain his decision to not indict Trump or to accuse him of criminal conduct. He also put lawmakers on notice that he did not intend to say more than what he put in the 448-page report.

"We chose those words carefully, and the work speaks for itself," Mueller said May 29. "I would not provide information beyond what is already public in any appearance before Congress."

Those remarks did little to settle the demands for his testimony. The two committees continued negotiations that had already been going on for weeks, saying they still wanted to hear from Mueller no matter how reluctant he was.

"When you accept the role of special counsel in one of the most significant investigations in modern history, you're going to have to expect that you're going to be asked to come and testify before Congress," House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., told reporters shortly after the announcement.

Trump himself simply tweeted, "Presidential Harassment!"

In the report issued in April, Mueller concluded there was not enough evidence to establish a conspiracy between Trump's presidential campaign and Russia, which was the original question that started the investigation. But he also said he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction of justice. The report examined several episodes in which Trump attempted to influence the investigation.



Special Counsel Robert Mueller departs Capitol Hill following a closed-door meeting in Washington in June 2017. Mueller has agreed to testify publicly before two House committees.

Democrats say it is now the job of Congress to assess the report's findings. Lawmakers are likely to confront Mueller on why he did not come to a firm conclusion on obstruction of justice. They are also likely to seek his reaction to a drumbeat of incessant criticism from the president and ask for his personal opinion about whether Trump would have been charged were he not the commander-in-chief.

Schiff and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said they issued the subpoenas Tuesday and Mueller

agreed to testify pursuant to those subpoenas. In a letter to Mueller accompanying the subpoenas, the committee chairmen said "the American public deserves to hear directly from you about your investigation and conclusions."

Schiff said there will be two hearings "back to back," one for each committee, and they will also meet with Mueller's staff in closed session afterward.

The Justice Department declined to comment.

Republicans have criticized Democrats for their continuing investigations of the president.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., questioned why they would still want to hear from Mueller after the lengthy report was issued. "He said he didn't want to talk to us anymore, didn't he?"

But Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel, has said he has no objections to Mueller's testimony.

"May this testimony bring to House Democrats the closure that the rest of America has enjoyed for months, and may it enable them to return to the business of legislating," Collins said.

Mass. RMV chief resigns following crash that killed 7

BY MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — The head of the Massachusetts motor vehicle division has resigned after a state agency failed to terminate the commercial driving license of a man whose collision with a group of motorcyclists on a rural New Hampshire road left seven bikers dead.

Volodymyr Zhukovsky, 23, pleaded not guilty Tuesday to seven counts of negligent homicide.

Massachusetts Department of Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack said in a statement that the state Registry of Motor Vehicles failed to act on information provided by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles about a drunken driving arrest involving Zhukovsky.

Pollack said the arrest should have cost him his commercial driving license. As a result, she accepted the resignation of Erin Deveney.

Manny Ribeiro, who survived the crash, said the resignation was just one of many revelations about the driver that indicated the crash could have been prevented. But Ribeiro said it also felt "like someone was running around from the problem."

"We just got to cut and walk away and that's it," Ribeiro said. "Story over. See you later until the next time it happens and then the next person steps down."

"This is what happens every single time." Connecticut prosecutors said Zhukovsky was arrested May 11 in a Walmart parking lot in East



Erin Deveney, shown in 2014, has resigned as head of the Massachusetts motor vehicle division after it was found that Volodymyr Zhukovsky, who has been charged in a deadly collision in New Hampshire, should have had his commercial driving license suspended after a previous arrest.

Windsor after failing a sobriety test. Zhukovsky's lawyer in that case, John O'Brien, said his client denies being intoxicated and will fight the charge.

Zhukovsky, a transport company driver who has a history of traffic arrests, was ordered Tuesday to remain in preventive detention, with a judge saying his driving record poses a potential danger to the public and himself.

The plea was entered by Zhukovsky's attorney, Melissa Davis, in Coos County Court in Lancaster, N.H. Zhukovsky remains behind bars there.

The Dodge pickup Zhukovsky was driving was towing a flatbed trailer and collided with the motorcycles in Randolph early Friday evening, investigators said.

Feds: Congressman paid for affairs with campaign cash

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, of California, illegally used campaign money to finance romantic flings with lobbyists and congressional aides, spending thousands of dollars on meals, cocktails and vacations, federal prosecutors say.

A government court filing late Monday detailed allegations about the married Republican congressman's affairs with five women following an indictment last year charging Hunter and his wife with mispending more than \$200,000 in campaign funds on trips and other personal expenses.

Margaret Hunter, who served as the six-term congressman's campaign chairwoman, pleaded guilty this month to one count of corruption and agreed to testify against her husband.

In the new motion, prosecutors reconstructed Hunter's alleged clandestine lifestyle, providing times when he arrived for and left liaisons and listing a range of expenses he represented as campaign-related activity, such as paying for dates with a woman

who had become his lover shortly after she started working in his office.

He used his campaign treasury for even seemingly incidental purchases — a \$7 beer at a hotel bar while on a ski trip with one of the women, and an Uber ride after a liaison with another lobbyist in October 2015.

Hunter has said he is the target of politically motivated prosecutors. His lawyer, Gregory Vega, didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment about the filing.

It came the same day Vega filed a motion to dismiss the indictment, arguing that the search and seizure of Hunter's congressional records was unconstitutional.

Vega wrote that the Constitution does not put members of Congress above the law but does "protect them from prosecution for their legislative activities and from having to disclose legislative records, absent their consent."

Prosecutors said the "sequence of romantic liaisons is so far removed from any legitimate campaign or congressional activity as to rebuff any argument that Hunter believed these were proper uses of campaign funds."

NATION

Signs of support buoy Md. paper a year after attack

By BRIAN WITTE
Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Standing ovals. A surge in subscriptions. Hugs from random readers. At a time when journalists are being vilified as “the enemy of the people,” staff members at the Capital Gazette newspaper are feeling the embrace of a grateful community one year after a gunman went on a newsroom rampage that left five of their colleagues dead.

Reporters who survived the worst attack on journalists in U.S. history say the trauma has not faded, but their connection with their readers is a source of comfort and inspiration.

“They’ll say that they read our work, and then they’ll be really nice to us, which is nice, even if they disagree with whatever we’re reporting,” said reporter Selene San Felice, who hid under a desk during the June 28, 2018, shooting.

Killed were Gerald Fischman, editorial page editor; Rob Haase, an assistant managing editor; John McNamara, a staff writer who covered sports; Rebecca Smith, an advertising sales assistant; and Wendi Winters, special publications editor.

The paper received a special Pulitzer Prize citation and \$100,000 for its coverage of the attack and its insistence on putting out the next day’s paper. The staff was named along with other journalists as Time magazine’s 2018 Person of the Year. Editor Rick Hutzell won the National Press Foundation’s Benjamin C. Bradlee Editor of the Year Award.

Annapolis residents held fundraisers and gave employees a rolling standing ovation when they marched in the July Fourth

“Through counseling and support, I’ve gotten a lot better over time.”

Rachael Pacella
Capital Gazette reporter

parade just days after the attack. Subscriptions soared 70 percent a week after the bloodshed and remain there, said Renee Mutchnik, a spokeswoman for the paper’s owners, Baltimore Sun Media. Readers have been known to walk up to staffers to thank them.

Journalists at the paper say the honors and award have helped but haven’t made the trauma go away. Some have turned to their craft to heal. Some have rededicated themselves to journalism.

Reporter Rachael Pacella, who hid between filing cabinets during the shooting, has broken down at funerals and in the wilderness on a camping trip. Covering a City Council meeting in Bowie, Md., distressed her because the press area was too far from the exit, the escape route in case of attack.

“Through counseling and support, I’ve gotten a lot better over time,” she said. “And the experience has also sort of reconfirmed to me my commitment to journalism and has made me want to give back even more to the community in terms of telling their story.”

Overcome by anxiety and despair after the shooting, photojournalist Paul Gillespie asked colleagues and victims’ relatives to sit for simple black-and-white portraits in his basement. Gillespie, who escaped from the



PHOTOS BY BRIAN WITTE/AP

Selene San Felice, a journalist who survived last year’s shooting at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Md., said she is focusing on more serious and ambitious reporting at the newspaper.

newsroom during the attack, calls his project “Journalists Matter: Faces of the Capital Gazette.”

In Gillespie’s pictures, reporter E.B. “Pat” Furgurson solemnly holds a pen and notebook, a hat with the words “Not the Enemy” next to him. Pacella looks through the shape of a heart she has made with her hands in one frame, while clutching a “Press On” poster in another. Andrea Chamberlain wears a “Journalism Matters” T-shirt and a lanyard with the press credentials of her slain husband, McNamara.

“Each one of these photo sessions has been, for me anyway, kind of like a therapy session with these people,” Gillespie said. “Because we start off with just taking a few easy pictures — me trying to get them comfortable with the camera and stuff — and then we just talk the whole time as I’m taking pictures.”

San Felice said she is focusing on more serious and ambitious reporting at the newspaper, which moved into new office space this month.

“I think that with a year gone by, we’re moving into a new era for our paper, and I want to make sure that we’re honoring the people that we lost by doing the best journalism that we can do,” she said.



San Felice shows a tattoo she recently had made on her arm with five flowers on an ink pen in memory of five colleagues who were killed in the attack.

The man arrested in the attack, Jarrod Ramos, 39, has pleaded insanity and is set for trial on murder charges in November. He had a grudge against the paper after it wrote about his guilty plea to harassing a former high school classmate in 2011.

Mistakes led NSA to shutter program

By ELLEN NAKASHIMA
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The National Security Agency purged millions of Americans’ phone records after learning that some of the data was collected in error last fall as part of a controversial counterterrorism program, according to documents made public Wednesday.

It was the second such instance last year of “over-collection” and helped lead to the agency’s decision — which it still has not publicly acknowledged — to shutter the program earlier this year, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to be candid.

The law authorizing this data collection, a scaled-down version of a program first disclosed by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, is due to expire in December.

Doubts about the collection’s utility go back years, according to current and former officials. And records obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit show that it has been marred by more compliance problems than the government has publicly acknowledged.

“These documents only confirm that this surveillance program is beyond redemption and should be shut down for good,” said Patrick Toomey, the ACLU’s staff lawyer. “The NSA’s collection of Americans’ call records is too sweeping, the compliance problems too many, and evidence of the program’s value all but nonexistent. There is no justification for leaving this surveillance power in the NSA’s hands.”

An NSA spokesman declined to comment on the program’s fate.

Between Oct. 3 and 12, according to redacted copies of NSA compliance reports obtained by the ACLU, an unidentified phone company provided the NSA with records that it should not have received — records not related to terrorism suspects.

The NSA assessed that “the impact was limited given the quick identification, purge processes and lack of reporting,” according to one report. Still, the incident represented a final straw of sorts, leading the agency to suspend the program.

A prior instance of erroneous collection did have a “significant” effect on civil liberties and privacy, according to one compliance report — something the agency has not stated publicly. It was considered significant because of the volume of records it obtained, not because any wiretap was initiated as a result of them, a senior intelligence official said.

2 employees, gunman dead at Ford dealership in Calif.

Associated Press

MORGAN HILL, Calif. — A man who had just been fired from a California Ford dealership shot and killed two employees and then killed himself Tuesday, police and witnesses said.

Police called to the Ford Store Morgan Hill found a man shot dead of an apparently self-inflicted wound on the ground outside some service bays.

“In his hand was a firearm, a handgun,” police Sgt. Bill Norman said at a news conference in Morgan Hill, southeast of San Jose in the Bay Area.

Employees directed officers inside a building where they found two other men who had been shot and killed at the scene.

Police did not immediately identify the gunman or the victims.

Doug MacGlashan, who was working in the parts department, told KRON-TV that the killer was a former employee.

The service and parts director “had just fired a parts rep who he had said he was going to fire earlier in the day. And I guess the parts rep went outside, got a gun, went into the service and parts director’s office and shot him,” MacGlashan said.

Man who threatened Trump from prison gets 37 months

Associated Press

LAKE CHARLES, La. — A man who threatened President Donald Trump from a Louisiana prison has been sentenced to just over three years in prison.

Buddy Keith Myers, 24, of Simms, Texas, was sentenced Monday for threatening the president, prosecutors said Tuesday. He had faced up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Myers pleaded guilty Aug. 28. A statement filed with his plea says he told investigators the threats were serious. He wrote letters in 2018, threatening

Trump with death or injury.

He drafted most on inmate request forms, giving some to officials at Allen Correctional Center and mailing at least one to the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, according to the statement. Myers finished a five-year sentence for attempted carjacking while in federal custody for the threats, state corrections spokesman Ken Pastorick said.

He said Myers had been scheduled to get out of prison early for behaving himself and completing prison programs but was turned over to federal marshals.

WORLD

Japan's Abe wants G-20 to unite on trade



KIN CHEUNG/AP

Protesters gather near the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong on Wednesday as activists called on world leaders at this week's G-20 summit in Japan to confront Chinese President Xi Jinping over extradition legislation they oppose.

Protesters urge Hong Kong discussion at summit

By KATIE TAM
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong activists opposed to extradition legislation urged the leaders of the U.S., the European Union and others on Wednesday to raise the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping at this week's G-20 summit in Japan.

Beijing has strongly opposed any such discussion, saying Hong Kong matters are strictly an internal Chinese affair.

Groups of protesters gathered outside the U.S. and EU consulates Wednesday morning to deliver petitions stating their requests.

Opponents say the bills could allow citizens of all nationalities to be extradited to mainland China for unfair trials and possible torture, reducing Hong Kong's judicial independence and the civil liberties it retained after its handover from British rule in 1997.

Hong Kong is an international city whose residents will all be affected by the legislation, regardless of their country of origin, said protester Mandy Wong, a college student.

"That's why it is necessary for other countries or overseas people to pay attention to this extradition bill," said Wong, 25.

Activists held up placards criticizing the legislation and chanted slogans including "Free Hong Kong."

Protesters aimed to present petitions at 19 consulates and planned further protests Wednesday evening after a scheduled no-confidence vote by lawmakers in the administration of the territory's leader, Chief Executive Carrie Lam. Pro-government supporters have a solid majority in the Legislative Assembly and the measure was not expected to pass.

Lam's push to pass the extradition bills prompted hundreds of thousands of people to fill Hong Kong's streets in protest marches.

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged Wednesday to seek a consensus on trade and other contentious issues when he chairs this week's summit of the Group of 20 countries in Osaka.

Abe stressed the importance of global leaders overcoming their differences and joining hands in tackling difficult issues to send a strong message to the rest of the world.

"I hope to lead the summit by patiently finding common ground in order to achieve concrete results rather than stressing or focusing on differences of opinion," Abe told a news conference marking the end of the parliamentary session. He said he hopes to send "strong messages" on a wide range of issues.

Abe, seeking to demonstrate his leadership as Japan hosts the G-20 summit for the first time, is pushing for agreements on less divisive issues such as handling of plastic waste. But he also has to steer the discussions on protectionism and other difficult topics.

G-20 finance ministers who gathered in Fukuoka in southern Japan earlier this month avoided using phrases such as "fight protectionism" in a joint statement.

Abe also expressed hope that the U.S. and China will resolve their trade dispute when their leaders meet during and on the sidelines of the summit on Friday and Saturday. Planned talks between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday are receiving extensive attention and are almost eclipsing the main G-20 conference.

"Regarding the U.S.-China trade dispute, I expect the United States and China will constructively resolve the problem through dialogue," Abe said.

Abe also called for international efforts to restore peace in the Middle East, where tensions have escalated amid a dispute between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal.

Warnings issued amid European heat wave

Associated Press

BERLIN — Large parts of western and central Europe sweated under blazing temperatures Wednesday, with authorities in one German region imposing temporary speed limits on some stretches of the autobahn as a precaution against heat damage.

Authorities have warned that temperatures could top 104 degrees Fahrenheit in parts of the continent over the coming days as a plume of dry, hot air moves north from Africa.

The Transport Ministry in Germany's eastern Saxony-Anhalt state said it has imposed speed limits of 62 or 75 mph on several short stretches of highway until further notice. Those stretches usually have no speed limit.

On Tuesday evening, German railway operator Deutsche Bahn called rescue services to Duesseldorf Airport station as a precaution because two trains' air conditioning systems weren't

working properly, but neither had to be evacuated.

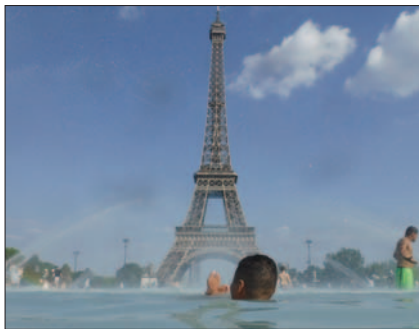
In Paris, authorities banned older cars from the city for the day as a heat wave aggravates the city's pollution.

Regional authorities estimate the measure put into place Wednesday affects nearly 60% of vehicles circulating in the Paris region, including many delivery trucks and older cars with higher emissions than newer models. Violators face fines.

Around France, some schools have been closed because of the high temperatures, which are expected to go up to 102 F in the Paris area later this week and bake much of the country, from the Pyrenees in the southwest to the German border in the northeast.

Such temperatures are rare in France, where most homes and many buildings do not have air conditioning.

French charities and local of-



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP

People cool off in the fountain of the Trocadero in Paris on Tuesday as a heat wave sent temperatures soaring in parts of Europe.

ficials are providing extra help for the elderly, the homeless and the sick this week, remembering that some 15,000 people, many of them elderly, died in France during a 2003 heat wave.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe cited the heat wave as

evidence of climate destabilization and vowed to step up the government's fight against climate change.

About half of Spain's provinces are on alert for high temperatures, which are expected to rise as the weekend approaches.

11 men on trial over gang rape of 18-year-old

Associated Press

BERLIN — Eleven men, most of them from Syria, have gone on trial in southwestern Germany over the gang rape of an 18-year-old woman last October.

The trial in the case, which added to tensions in Germany over migration, opened Wednesday at Freiburg state court and is scheduled to last until December. The news agency dpa reported the defendants are between 18 and 30. Eight come from Syria; the others include an Algerian, a Syrian and a German.

Prosecutors say the woman was offered an ecstasy tablet in a disco and her drink was spiked with an unknown substance, leaving her unable to fend off the assailants. She reported that several men later raped her outside the disco.

WORLD

Conferees say peace critical to US Mideast plan

By MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — The Trump administration's \$50 billion economic support plan for the Palestinians cannot succeed without addressing the political elements of a Middle East deal, international financial chiefs and global investors said Wednesday in comments that pushed back on the U.S. insistence that the two must be separated.



Kushner

Panelists at the two-day conference in Bahrain welcomed the proposal's ambitious investment and development goals but warned it would fall short without good governance, rule of law and realistic prospects for lasting peace — which they said are largely missing from the initiative.

Their views were aired as the Palestinians repeated their outright rejection of the so-called "Peace to Prosperity" plan because it ignores their political demands, including an end to the Israeli occupation and the creation of an independent state.

Christine Lagarde, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, suggested that peace is the missing part of the proposal, which was put together by President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner.

The Palestinians have great

economic potential that can only be fulfilled with serious reform and protections for investors that must include serious anti-corruption efforts. But those alone are not enough, Lagarde said, stressing that a "satisfactory peace" is imperative for prosperity. "It's a matter of putting all the ingredients together," she said.

"Improving economic conditions and attracting lasting investment to the region depends ultimately on being able to reach a peace agreement," she said in a statement released later by the IMF. "Peace, political stability and re-establishment of trust between all the parties involved are essential prerequisites to the success of any economic plan for the region."

Lagarde's comments appeared at odds with the views expressed by Kushner when he opened the conference on Tuesday. "Agreeing on an economic pathway forward is a necessary precondition to resolving what has been a previously unsolvable political situation," he said.

The proposal depends heavily on private sector investment in the West Bank and Gaza as well as Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, where it envisions creating a million new jobs, cutting Palestinian unemployment to single digits, doubling the Palestinian gross domestic product and reducing the Palestinian poverty rate by 50% through projects in the health care, education, power, water, tourism, transportation and agriculture sectors.

The plan acknowledges that its success hinges on the completion of a long-elusive Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

European airports plan for net zero carbon emissions

Associated Press

LIMASSOL, Cyprus — An organization representing airports in 45 European countries said Wednesday that it aims to get airports to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Airport Council International Europe President Michael Kerkloh told a meeting of 300 aviation officials that the strategy's launch aligns European airports with the Paris climate accords by putting climate change at the heart of business decisions.

That's "an absolute must" for all industries, said Kerkloh, who is stepping down.

Kerkloh said 140 airports operated by 40 members of his organization have individually committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions and that three Swedish airports have already done so.

The goal does not include aircraft emissions but those of the airport's buildings, infrastructure and vehicles.

Kerkloh urged aircraft makers to work toward zero emissions amid growing public demand for action to curb climate change. But he said that taxing aviation "would do nothing" to eliminate aircraft carbon emissions.



ANDREW MEDICHINI/AP

A man walks past a pile of uncollected garbage Monday in Rome, where doctors say overflowing trash bins are posing possible health hazards.

Doctors in Rome warn of health hazards from city's garbage woes

Associated Press

ROME — Doctors in Rome are warning of possible health hazards caused by overflowing trash bins in the city's streets as the Italian capital struggles with a renewed garbage emergency aggravated by the summer heat.

Trash disposal is a decades-long problem for the Eternal City. Rome was left with no major site to treat the 1.7 million metric tons of trash it produces every year since the Malagrotta landfill was closed in 2013.

Successive mayors from different parties have all proved incapable of solving the city's garbage woes, which have reemerged

dramatically since Mayor Virginia Raggi, of the populist 5-Star Movement, took the helm three years ago.

Raggi's administration is facing frustration and anger from both tourists and Romans over the piles of trash that threaten peoples' health and tarnish the city's image.

"We've become the third, fourth worst in my opinion," said Rome resident Rossana Franzà. "Mrs. Raggi should take a small stroll here once and a while. Because in her neighborhood, which I have been to, it is all in order."

Another woman living in Rome who gave her name only as Alessia told The Associated Press that

a rat walked by her the other day and she cannot even go outside in the evenings because "there's an incredible stink."

Animals like dogs, cats and rats and even birds like seagulls pose serious health risks as they roost around in garbage and spread bacterial infections through their waste or urine, Dr. Roberto Volpe, from the National Research Council CNR, told the AP.

"The main risk for us comes when we take out and throw the trash away," Volpe warned. "There's a risk of taking the contamination back home with us."

"That's why it's important to wash our hands properly afterward."

Scientists transfer 1st test tube rhino

Associated Press

BERLIN — Scientists in Europe said Tuesday they've successfully transferred a test tube rhino embryo back into a female whose eggs were fertilized in vitro as part of an effort to save another nearly extinct sub-species of the giant horned mammal.

The procedure was performed last month on a southern white rhino at Chorzow zoo in Poland, said Thomas Hildebrandt, of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin.

Hildebrandt is part of BioRescue, an international team of scientists and conservationists trying to use IVF to save the rare northern white rhino.

Only two northern white rhinos — both females — are left. The last male northern white rhino, named Sudan, died in March 2018.

Scientists had preserved frozen sperm samples from several males that they now hope to use to revive the species.

Scientists chose to test the IVF transfer on southern white rhinos, a closely related sub-species whose numbers have stabilized in the wild.

"This is the first positive proof that the entire procedure we've developed in theory can be successful," Hildebrandt told reporters in Berlin.

But time is running out. The BioRescue team is waiting for permission from the Kenyan government to harvest eggs from



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

Hope, a 17-year-old, female southern white rhino, is shot with tranquilizing darts so a team can harvest her eggs in Chorzow, Poland, in February.

the last two surviving female northern white rhinos, a mother and daughter called Najin and Fatu. They are unable to bear offspring, so once the embryos are fertilized in the lab they would be implanted in a southern white rhino surrogate mother.

Kenya's ambassador in Germany, Joseph Maguti, said his country supports the effort, but he didn't say how long it would take to clear the paperwork.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Jeopardy!' champ out of World Series of Poker

NV LAS VEGAS — "Jeopardy!" champion and professional sports gambler James Holzhauer lost a bid to win cash for a charity in two World Series of Poker events in Las Vegas.

Tournament spokesman Seth Palansky said Tuesday that Holzhauer and Poker Hall of Famer Mike Sexton played about five hours Monday before finishing out of the money in a tag-team tournament.

Earlier, the 32-time "Jeopardy!" winner finished short of the prize pool in 454th place among some 1,800 entrants in a No-Limit Hold'em tournament.

Holzhauer had planned to donate half of any winnings to a Las Vegas nonprofit for homeless high school students.

Woman uses shovel to kill cobra on her patio

PA FAIRLESS HILLS — A Pennsylvania woman used a shovel to kill a cobra she saw slithering on the patio of her apartment.

Kathy Kehoe, 73, said the squawking of some blue jays outside her unit caught her attention. When she looked outside, she saw a serpent that was about 4 to 5 feet long.

She said she saw the lateral spot that is commonly found on cobras and nudged its tail. When it came up and spread its hood, she realized it was a cobra.

Kehoe then took photos of the snake before killing it.

The apartment complex is the same one where officials removed 20 venomous snakes from another apartment in March.

Dog's discovery leads to woman's head, torso

SC SENECA — South Carolina authorities said they found the head and torso of a woman's body.

The state reported that the decomposed remains were found Monday. They're presumed to be associated with other human bones discovered in a wooded area less than 10 miles from Clemson University.

Seneca police said a pet dog dug up the bones in its owner's yard. An expanded search uncovered other bones along a creek.

Oconee County Coroner Karl Addis said preliminary studies suggest the bones came from a white woman, between 25 and 45 years old. An autopsy is pending, and DNA will be compared against known missing persons.

Historic church to hold final Mass next month

IL CHICAGO — The Archdiocese of Chicago said the final Mass at a historic city church that has fallen into disrepair will be held next month.

St. Adalbert Church has been around for more than 100 years. Church officials have said more than \$3 million is needed to repair the building, including its



AMEE DILGER, THE (WILKES-BARRE, PA.) TIMES LEADER/AP

Dog paddling

Jody Taylor, of California, and her dog, Ava, head out on a paddle board on Harveys Lake in Harveys Lake, Pa., on Monday.

towers.

Church officials said the last Mass will be July 14.

The parish was founded in the 1870s and the current church was built in 1912.

Puppy who disappeared after SUV crash found

AZ FLAGSTAFF — A recently adopted puppy that disappeared after her owner crashed in Arizona survived 13 days in the mountains and has been reunited with her owner.

The Arizona Daily Sun reported volunteers found Bella, a 4-month-old mixed yellow lab, almost two weeks after Michael Crocker rolled over his SUV off Route 66 in Flagstaff.

Crocker was airlifted to a hospital in Phoenix after crashing on May 14 but Bella was nowhere to be found.

A Humane Animal Rescue and Trapping Team member found the whimpering pup not too far from the crash site.

Marker commemorates reported alien abduction

MS PASCAGOULA — A historical marker was placed near the river where two men in southern Mississippi said they were abducted by aliens in 1973.

News outlets reported the city of Pascagoula dedicated the marker

THE CENSUS

86

The number of cars that were burned from a spreading brush fire at a CarMax lot in Bakersfield, Calif. Authorities received reports of several grass fires erupting along State Route 99 in the Central California city. The fire department said the blaze spread to a CarMax parking lot, destroying 26 cars and damaging 60. The Bakersfield Californian said the total loss was put at \$2.1 million.

recently at Lighthouse Park.

Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker said they were on the shores of the Pascagoula River when what appeared to be aliens pulled them onboard a UFO, examined them for about 30 minutes and then returned them to Earth.

Both reported the event to the sheriff's department and were checked out at a hospital after the reported incident on Oct. 11, 1973.

Student is sued over hotel sprinkler damage

VA DUMFRIES — A hotel's insurance company has sued a high school student it claims caused more than \$690,000 in damage by activating a sprinkler inside one of its rooms.

The Virginian-Pilot reported Landstown High School senior Cade Anderson stayed at the hotel in Dumfries on Oct. 20, 2017, ahead of a junior ROTC drill competition the next day.

Anderson's attorney said his client hung his uniform on a

sprinkler to properly affix all of the ribbons and medals. When he took the uniform down, the sprinkler activated.

Prince William County Assistant Fire Chief Matt Smolsky said 10 rooms, the hotel's kitchen and dining area flooded. Anderson's room was on the fourth floor.

Graffiti artist hired by city mistaken for vandal

MI DETROIT — A graffiti artist commissioned to paint a mural on a Detroit viaduct was arrested by police who believed he was committing vandalism.

Sheefy McFly, 29, whose real name is Tashif Turner, had been commissioned as part of a multi-year effort to fight illegal graffiti with city-approved artwork.

McFly said he didn't have his city-issue permit with him.

Detroit police spokeswoman Nicole Kirkwood said officers found McFly uncooperative. She said the disagreement led to McFly being arrested on suspicion of resisting and obstructing and for

a warrant previously issued for a parking ticket.

Chained pit bulls lead to dog-fighting charges

SC YORK — Authorities arrested a man on dozens of criminal counts after finding pit bull dogs chained to car axles buried in the ground on a South Carolina property.

The York County Sheriff's Office said 42 pit bulls were seized by investigating deputies, who found evidence of possible dog fighting.

On Monday, the sheriff said in a news release that Anthony Latoranodo Orr, 49, of McConnell, faced 75 warrants involving animal fighting, drug and weapons charges.

Man at festival strips, knocks over equipment

DE DOVER — Police said an intoxicated man at Delaware's popular Firefly Music Festival stripped naked, streaked through the venue and knocked over sound gear.

Dover police said the unnamed 21-year-old Delaware man knocked around some DJ equipment at a concert tent while in the nude.

Dover police Cpl. Mark Hoffman told the Delaware News Journal no assaults were reported.

From wire reports

FACES

Determined Davis

Oscar-winning actress committed to going above and beyond on diversity

By JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

When Viola Davis started her production company nearly a decade ago, she was determined to bring about change in Hollywood with a strategic mandate: Normalize people of color on screen.

"We're not social statements. We're not mythical creatures all the time ... you can literally put pen to paper and write a great story that includes people of color, and it could actually sell," the Oscar winner said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

Now, in the era of Time's Up and #MeToo, the call for diversity on all levels has been amplified. Some actors and directors have publicly called for 50-50 inclusion riders, contractual stipulations for the diversity of a film's cast and crew. Davis says she doesn't need a piece of paper to do the right thing, and her projects don't try to replicate diversity simply based on statistics.

"Maybe that's narcissistic of me, but I don't want to tell my daughter that because she's 12 percent of the population, she only deserves 12 percent of the pie," Davis said.

She calls her JuVee Productions a "walking metaphor" of inclusion, noting that she has people of color and members of the LGBTQ community on staff at every level.

"Women are at the forefront of just about every project," she adds.

She started JuVee Productions with her husband, Julius Tennon, in 2011 so she could have more of a voice in her own career, as well as provide more diversity on set. Before that, Davis says, she often felt left out of the conversation.

Davis spoke to the AP while promoting a documentary on diabetes, "A Touch of Sugar." The actress, who has an early form of the disease and has lost family members to it, wants to use her celebrity to help raise awareness.

"That's what I can do. I'm not a politician. I'm not a senator. I'm not in the House of Representatives. I'm not in Congress. What I am is an artist. That's how I provoke change," Davis said.

Earlier this month, she signed on to Netflix's adaptation of "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," to be produced by Denzel Washington and co-starring Chadwick Boseman.

JuVee has a slate of films on the horizon, including "Emanuel," a documentary released this month that explores life in a Charleston, S.C., community after a self-avowed white supremacist killed nine African Americans at a church there in 2015. The story focuses on the victims' family members, friends and community, and their efforts to heal through faith and forgiveness after the massacre at Emanuel African Methodist Church. Dylann Roof was convicted of federal hate-crime and obstruction-of-religion charges and sentenced to death.

Davis also has a feature film in development, "The Personal History of Rachel Dupree," in which she stars. It is based on the Ann Weisgarber novel about a pregnant woman struggling to survive with her homesteading family in the early 1900s.

"I don't want to tell my daughter that because she's 12 percent of the population, she only deserves 12 percent of the pie."

Viola Davis



NUCCIO DI NUZZO, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Viola Davis calls JuVee Productions, the company she started in 2011 with her husband, Julius Tennon, a "walking metaphor" of inclusion.

Sheryl Crow says Universal fire destroyed all of her master tapes

Associated Press

Sheryl Crow says the original tapes of albums such as "Tuesday Night Music Club" and the track "All I Wanna Do" perished in a 2008 fire at Universal Music Group.

Crow told the BBC Wednesday that her master tapes and backups were destroyed in the blaze and that she only discovered the loss after a New York Times report revealed the extent of the damage. She said the fire "feels a little apocalyptic" and that she didn't "understand the cover-up."

A group of artists, including Soundgarden and estates representing Tupac Shakur and Tom Petty, have sued. The artists allege that Universal failed to protect music ruined in the fire and inform them of the extent of its impact.

Cardi B pleads not guilty to new charges in brawl

Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B was arraigned Tuesday on new felony charges

in connection with a fight last year at a New York City strip club.

"Not guilty, sir, honor," she said as she pleaded in state court to two counts of attempted assault and various misdemeanor charges.

Cardi B, 26, whose real name is Belcalis Almanzar, was originally charged with misdemeanors. Prosecutors presented the case to a grand jury after she rejected a plea deal that would have given her a conditional discharge. The judge set Sept. 9 as

the next court date, but the rapper is not required to appear.

Other news

■ Country singer Chris Stapleton and his wife, Morgane, donated \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity in Lexington, Ky. WKYT-TV cited a statement from Habitat in reporting that Stapleton made the donation through his charity, Outlaw State of Kind. Stapleton is a native of Paintsville, Ky.

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Attorneys

178

Court & Carpenter
MILITARY DEFENSE LAWYERS

**THE LOCAL CIVILIAN
MILITARY DEFENSE FIRM**

Sauerwiesen 2, Kaiserslautern-
Siegelbach, Germany 67661

(833) 446-UCMJ (x8265)
www.militarylawfirm.com

Dental

902

AMERICAN DOCTORS & STAFF

SERVICES OFFERED

- family dentistry
- periodontal maintenance
- root canals
- wisdom teeth surgery
- implant surgery
- certified orthodontics
- nitrous oxide



Ramstein Dental Care
06371 406230
Poststrasse 1, 66877 Ramstein
Ramsteindental.com

Wiesbaden Dental Care
06119 887 2650
Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden
Wiesbadendental.com



Certified American
Dental Hygienists
TRICARE Preferred Provider



Transportation

944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY
Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730
Toll free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)
E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de
WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de

UNITED KINGDOM
+44-(0)1638-515714
enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk
www.carshipuk.co.uk

U.S.A.
+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701
+1-800-264-8167 (US only)
info@tgalus
www.tgalus

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations



Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (872-7447)
For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!



Concert, events, TV,
movies, music, video
games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES.

Want a better picture?

You'll get one – just by reading
Stars and Stripes military news coverage.
In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES.

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES.

Mobile • Online • Print

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Sean Klinek, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stars.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stars.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stars.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stars.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stars.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stars.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350
Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stars.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)277.380
Washington
Joseph Cacioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacioli.joseph@stars.com
(+1)202(886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
Bowers.brian@stars.com
CIRCULATION
Mideast
Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.l.reisman@mail.gmail.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)277.380
Europe
Karen Lyles, Community Engagement Manager
lyles.karen@stars.com
memberservices@stars.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090
Pacific
Mari Mori, customerhelp@stars.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington
Tel: (+1)202.465.0023
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3505
Reader letters
letters@stars.com
Additional contacts
stars.com/contactus

OMBUSDMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stars.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and on Fri. and Sat. by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 4500202, PO Box 96301, San Francisco, CA 94102. Postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. For U.S. government, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located. The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or the U.S. government. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2019

stars.com

OPINION

Dems' plans factor in our love of freedom

By ELIZABETH BRUEGJ

The Washington Post

While conservative intellectuals wage war over the price of modern liberalism, Democrats preparing to take to the debate stage Wednesday and Thursday are poised to engage in their own battles over the meaning of "freedom." It's no small question, and it may be the most portentous single question to surface so far in the 2020 Democratic primary race — even if it's rarely made explicit.

Philosophically speaking, debates about the true nature of freedom are nothing new. Those arguments can take on the language of rights or duties, but their essential aim is similar: to figure out what it really means for people to be free. Are we free when we're capable of accomplishing everything we want? When there are few hindrances to accomplishing what we can?

Disagreement abounds regarding those questions, but they take a more familiar shape when they translate into politics. In the political domain, what freedom really means usually comes down to two different ways of thinking about it: Are people free when they're relieved of the burdens imposed on them by peculiar industries, rules or laws, or are people free when they have the material resources to do what they want with their lives? Or is it some combination of both — and in what proportions?

Several Democrats have made freedom from certain negative aspects of American life major points of their campaigns, advancing a vision of freedom that is something that arises when harmful inhibitors are swept away. Consider Washington Gov. Jay Inslee on his "Freedom From Fossil Fuels" plan: "In America, we adore freedom, we cherish freedom. We celebrate

freedom. ... Today, we're announcing a new freedom in America, and that's freedom from fossil fuels. ... Our very ability to raise our children in a healthy environment depends on breaking the chain of enslavement of our democracy to the fossil fuel industry." In other words, so long as Americans are dependent on fossil fuels and the political and economic choices that dependency entails, they're not free.

Other Democrats seem to envision freedom as something that is not so much unleashed as cultivated — a state that has to be actively created to be fully enjoyed. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., falls into this camp. "Are you truly free if you graduate hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt? Are you free if you cannot pursue your dream because you don't make enough to cover your student loan payments?" Sanders asked, rhetorically, in a tweet concluding, "We will #CancelStudentDebt because there is no freedom without economic freedom." In another tweet, Sanders posed a similar refrain: "Are you free if you can't afford to see a doctor? Are you free if you must work 80 hours a week to buy food? Are you free if you can't pay for insulin you need to survive? There is no freedom without economic freedom."

For all these ills, Sanders envisions programs to introduce access where lack has reigned: student debt cancellation and free college, single-payer health care, a \$15 minimum wage and so forth. For him, achieving freedom is about giving people the material means to achieve their goals — without which freedom simply doesn't exist.

Still, other Democrats seem to combine these distinct ways of thinking about freedom. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts, introduced and championed the Freedom from Equifax Exploitation Act in 2017, for instance, arguing that the bill

"gives consumers more control over their own personal data and prohibits companies like Equifax from charging consumers for freezing and unfreezing access to their credit files." In other words, the bill would reduce Equifax's grip on consumers' personal and credit information, freeing them up to make whatever choices they prefer with their data — which follows the general thrust of Warren's battle against exploitation in banking and credit.

But Warren also seems to submit, occasionally, to the idea that freedom has to be made, not simply unshackled. In promoting her child care assistance program, for example, Warren wrote: "Parents get the security of knowing there are affordable and instructional child care options for their children. That gives them the freedom to choose the best work and child care situation for themselves." Freedom in this instance seems to come from the creation of a substantive resource rather than the elimination of a roadblock.

For Americans used to thinking of freedom in a libertarian sense — a state in which one is unencumbered by external obligations, such as taxes and laws — the rising sense that freedom is actually something that has to be created using some of those very mechanisms may seem surprising. But the idea that freedom is the result of substantive, material resources is nothing new. In his 1944 State of the Union address, for example, President Franklin Roosevelt said, "We have come to a clear realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence."

Whether we still have that clear realization will be, in some sense, the major question of the Democratic primary race.

Elizabeth Bruegje is an opinion columnist at The Washington Post.

Why millennials may be conservatives at heart

By KATHLEEN PARKER

Washington Post Writers Group

Several current trends among millennials do not bode well for Democrats. Indeed, they suggest a greater affinity for (many) Republican policies, notwithstanding a, perhaps, contiguous dislike for the GOP's leadership.

Dare I say it? These trends may suggest a gradual migration toward traditional values and conservatism.

Hear me out. My reading of various recent studies, stories and reports about young Americans (18-34) reveals a decline in the following: motherhood, marriage (down from 59% in 1972 to 28% in 1981), sex, birthrates, faith, happiness (especially among young men) and longevity.

In the good news column, abortion rates are also in decline — and friendship is up. In the "surprising" column, a new GLAAD study shows that non-LGBTQ millennials' comfort with the LGBTQ community has dipped, while that of their parents' generation remains steady.

At the same time, student and credit-card debt is staggering; affordable housing and jobs are out of reach for many; wages are low; and the future is dim in light of the growing gerontocracy and the entitlements (Medicare and Social Security) they expect, deserve and, for which, I hasten to add, they have paid.

So, what about this suggests that millennials would be inclined toward conservatism? To understand, one must look at the reasons for these trends.

Let's start with sex. Not surprisingly, re-

search shows that people are happier when they have sex at least once a week. But married people have sex more often than unmarried people. From this, one could deduce that marriage is good. There's a reason traditional values are, well, traditional. They've stood the test of time and have demonstrated that what is best for people and society, while not always your own choice, is, like rutabaga, good for you.

W. Bradford Wilcox and Lyman Stone of the Institute for Family Studies speculate in "The Atlantic" that the decline in sex may be partly attributable to the #MeToo movement, which has thankfully eliminated some of the unwanted sex that was occurring in previous decades. I suspect too that some men are hesitant to engage in new sexual relationships for fear that their advances could be misinterpreted as harassment.

The decline of motherhood can be attributed to many factors. For one, women are waiting longer to have children as they pursue careers. Legalized abortion and increased access to birth control also play a role.

Millennials might also be finding it difficult to meet a partner. Traditionally, many such meetings took place in church, temple or other religious institutions. As religious attendance has dwindled, so have some opportunities to meet a potential spouse with similar values. Online dating services and other avenues that didn't exist before. Also, studies reflect that people who regularly attend religious services at least once a month report being happier than those who do not.

Other challenges millennials face include economic and educational obstacles that have worsened during the past generation,

as outlined by Stone in a separate piece in The Atlantic titled "The Boomers Ruined Everything." Despite today's low unemployment rate, some good jobs are harder to find, in part because of the regulatory and licensing zeal of the past few decades. Many careers that used to require a high school diploma now require a college degree. As burdensome regulations increase the cost of business, jobs decline. In housing, strict zoning restrictions often mean less attainable homes for young people. Regarding social attitudes, GLAAD found that straight millennials' comfort with the LGBTQ population has declined for the second consecutive year. As for reasons, GLAAD conducted focus groups and found two common themes: the "newness" of gender politics and discriminatory rhetoric that the advances of past decades of worship got married, engaged in more sex within a committed relationship and had children.

Toward these ends, they need government that: reduces tax and regulatory burdens that impede growth and employment; seeks to lower educational costs and emphasizes noncollege job training; makes housing more affordable; encourages creative financing for higher education and homebuying; promotes better school choice for the disadvantaged; makes marriage financially appealing; and prioritizes family unity.

That, they sound like a conservative agenda to me.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Appeals court blames OPM for data breaches

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court has revived the chances of monetary awards being paid to federal employees and others whose personal information was exposed in hacks of two government databases that were revealed in 2015.

The ruling criticized the Office of Personnel Management for failing to safeguard data that information despite having been the target of prior hacking attempts and despite repeated warnings from its inspector general's office that the databases were vulnerable.

"OPM effectively left the door to its re-

records unlocked by repeatedly failing to take basic, known, and available steps to secure the trove of sensitive information in its hands," said the decision Friday by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The OPM deferred a request for comment to the Justice Department, which declined to comment.

The appellate court ruled that a federal district judge erred in dismissing a combined suit brought by two federal employee unions — the American Federation of Government Employees and the National Treasury Employees Union.

The NTEU is asking the courts to order lifetime credit protection for victims and to compel the OPM to carry out the recommendations from its inspector general to strengthen its cyberdefenses. The AFGE suit seeks a monetary award to victims under the Privacy Act.

Both databases contained personal information such as names, addresses, birth dates and Social Security numbers.

The larger of the two encompassed some 21.5 million people who had undergone background checks since about 2000, including federal, military and contractor personnel who were seeking new or

renewed security clearances, as well as people checked to gain access to certain government facilities.

Although the breaches were revealed in mid-2015, they had begun in late 2014 and continued for several months. They were widely, although not officially, attributed to hackers based in China.

The Defense Department is taking over from the OPM the responsibility for conducting background checks and protecting the related information, while the White House wants to move most of the OPM's other duties to the General Services Administration.

Fed chairman says economy's outlook has clouded

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Tuesday the outlook for the U.S. economy has become cloudier since early May, with rising uncertainties over trade and global growth causing the central bank to reassess its next move on interest rates.

Speaking to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Powell said the Fed is now grappling with whether those uncertainties will continue to weigh on the outlook and require action.

Powell did not commit to a rate cut but said the central bank will closely monitor incoming data and be prepared to "act as appropriate to sustain the expansion."

"The crosscurrents have re-emerged, with apparent progress on trade turning to greater uncertainty and with incoming data raising renewed concerns about the strength of the global economy," Powell said.

‘The crosscurrents have reemerged, with apparent progress on trade turning to greater uncertainty...’

Jerome Powell
Federal Reserve chairman

Many economists have said they believe the Fed could decide at its next meeting on July 30-31 to cut its key policy rate, something it has not done since 2008.

But markets showed disappointment with Powell's comments, which suggested a rate cut was not certain.

That followed separate comments Tuesday by James Bullard, head of the Fed's St. Louis regional bank, who said he believed a quarter-point cut in July would be sufficient as an insurance move against a possible severe economic slowdown.

The S&P 500 dropped 1% to 2,917, its biggest loss of the month, while the Dow Jones Industrial

Average fell 179 points, or 0.7%, to 26,548.

In addition to disappointment with the Fed comments, reports showing a drop in consumer confidence and weakness in the housing market added to investor gloom.

In an interview with Bloomberg television, Bullard said an "insurance cut" of a quarter-point would be enough to protect against a sharper-than-expected slowdown in economic growth and a half-percentage point cut would be "overdone." Bullard last week cast the lone dissent from the Fed's decision to hold rates steady, favoring instead an immediate rate cut.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 27)	\$1.1655
Dollar buys (June 27)	€0.8580
British pound (June 27)	\$1.30
Japanese yen (June 27)	¥104.00
South Korean won (June 27)	₩1,130.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dh)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2681
Canada (dollar)	1.3157
China (Yuan)	6.8795
Denmark (Krone)	6.5753
Egypt (Pound)	16.7181
Euro	\$1.1351/0.8809
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.8091
Hungary (Forint)	364.34
Israel (Shekel)	3.2955
Japan (Yen)	107.69
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3034
Norway (Krone)	8.5107
Philippines (Peso)	51.47
Poland (Zloty)	3.75
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7502
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3545
South Korea (Won)	1,156.04
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9775
Thailand (Baht)	30.76
Turkey (Lira)	5.743

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Nonmilitary exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federals funds market rate	2.40
3-month bill	2.06
30-year bond	2.52

MARKET WATCH

June 25, 2019

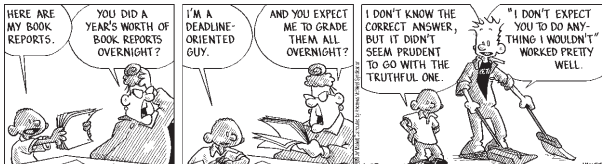
Dow Jones Industrials	-179.32
26,548.22	
Nasdaq composite	-120.98
7,884.72	
Standard & Poor's 500	-27.97
2,917.38	
Russell 2000	-9.04
1,521.04	

WEATHER OUTLOOK

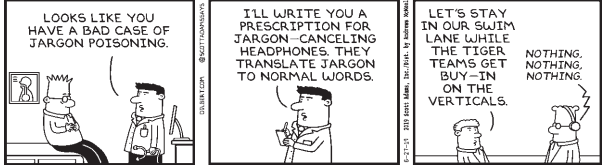


The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Frazz



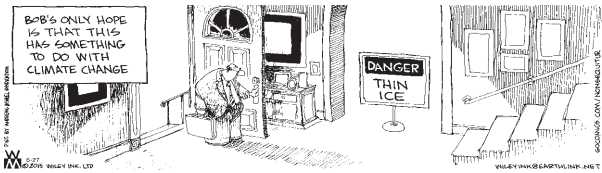
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



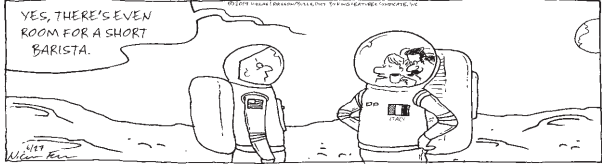
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18				19		20				
21	22			23		24						
25			26		27		28		29	30	31	
32		33		34		35		36				
37			38		39		40		41			
			42		43		44		45			
46	47	48			49		50					
51				52		53				54	55	
56				57						58		
59				60						61		

ACROSS

- Microwave
- Jubilation
- Scruif
- "Believer"
- Give temporarily
- Big-screen format
- Layered desserts
- Refer to
- 18rate
- Breaks away
- Stockholm's land
- JFK's veep
- Fleur-de—
- Cutting tool
- Parlor pieces
- Now, on a memo
- Luau bowlful
- Karate level
- Prison-related
- Atty.'s title
- Mauna —
- Soda
- Steering device on a ship
- Leaping antelopes
- Hosp. hookups
- Donald Duck's nephew
- Like a good golf score
- Greek mountain
- Cannes milk

DOWN

- Blackbird
- Docs' bloc
- Italian cheese
- Forest clearings
- Tiki bar necklace
- Tolkien creatures
- '50s Ford
- "Great work!"
- During
- Top of the head
- Former mates
- Passing craze
- "Survivor" airer
- High-five sound
- Sagacious
- Snooze
- Misery
- Crystalline mineral
- Skin soother
- Twinkler in the sky
- Tropical fruits
- Leb. neighbor
- Texter's chuckle
- Calms
- "Straight Up" singer Abdul
- TiVo, for example
- Denny's rival
- Inspiration
- Nuisance
- Break suddenly
- Chips go-with
- Santa — winds
- Crater part

Answer to Previous Puzzle

I	N	K	D	E	A	R	S	A	M	E
M	O	E	O	R	C	A	E	L	I	A
A	G	E	W	A	L	K	O	N	A	I
C	O	L	O	N	E	R	S			
			A	P	P	T	B	E	A	M
A	I	R	F	A	R	E	S	D	R	A
I	C	U	T	O	R	T	E	E	L	I
D	E	B	T	F	R	E	S	H	A	I
E	S	S	A	Y	Y	M	C	A		
			N	O	W	O	S	C	A	R
A	I	R	G	U	I	T	A	R	U	S
S	O	U	L	S	O	R	T	B	I	N
H	U	G	E	P	O	T	S	E	F	T

6-27

CRYPTOQUIP

PWSH NWS VRH NZSY R DMQS
RDMXHY R TRDDMMV OSRN
RHY QXAASY ZN TSWZHY WZV,
ZN PRO R NMPSY ONMMA.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOLKS SEEKING HANDOUTS' ONLY OF FOOD SUCH AS CHEDDAR, COLBY, BRIE AND FETA: CHEESE-BEGGARS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals R

FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

CLASSIFIED

Go to stripes.com to place your free ad. *Sell fast/ Buy fast*

When you see this camera icon go to stripes.com to view the uploaded photo.

EUROPE	
Advertising:	Kristi Kimmel kimmel,kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013
Circulation:	Van Rowell rowell,van@stripes.com +49(0)631,3615,9111 DSN 314,583,9111
Reader Letters:	letters@stripes.com

MIDDLE EAST	
Kristi Kimmel kimmel,kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013	
Robert Reismann reismann,robert@stripes.com +49(0)631,3615,9150 DSN 314,583,9150	
letters@stripes.com	

PACIFIC	
Ichiro Katayanagi CustomerHelp@stripes.com +81(3) 6385,3267 DSN 315,229,3267	
Mari Matsumoto SSPcirculation@stripes.com +81(3) 6385,3171 DSN 315,229,3171	
letters@stripes.com	

ClassifiedsEUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Autos for Sale • Germany 142

Entertainment 450

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classifieds advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- ❑ Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.

- ❑ People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Auto • Quality Pre-owned US SPEC Vehicles
www.usfcauto.com
Free Europe-wide delivery

Free Classifieds!
Visit Stripes.com for details.
STARS AND STRIPES

Brent Marx new CD "You're the Light"
Country/Rock/easy listening songs for Parties, travel, home and bonfires.
Available now at Amazon.de iTunes, iCloud, etc.
50% of all proceeds are donated to the National Wounded Warrior Center.



Are you in the picture?

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad

Want a better picture?

You'll get one – just by reading Stars and Stripes military news coverage.
In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.
Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Mobile • Online • Print

Get the news
that matters to you,
from the source you trust.



Daily Headlines | Veterans News | Military History | and more

Sign up now for Stars and Stripes FREE eNewsletters

STARS AND STRIPES. [strips.com/newsletters](https://www.strips.com/newsletters)

MLB



NICK WASS/AP

The San Diego Padres' Manny Machado watches his home run during the third inning of Tuesday's game against the Baltimore Orioles in Baltimore. Machado played seven seasons for the Orioles.

Roundup

Machado has big night in return to Baltimore

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — After the faithful fans showered Manny Machado with cheers and love, the former Baltimore star made himself right at home — again — at Camden Yards.

Machado marked his return with a performance reminiscent of his time with the Orioles, hitting a long homer and driving in two runs to help the San Diego Padres roll to an 8-3 victory on Tuesday night.

Machado played seven years with the Orioles before being traded last July, months before becoming a free agent. The third baseman signed a 10-year, \$300 million contract with the Padres in February.

Playing in the stadium where he made his major league debut in 2012, Machado received a standing ovation from many in the crowd of 21,644 before striking out in the first inning.

In the third, however, he hit a shot off Jimmy Yacabis (1-2) that traveled an estimated 455 feet. One inning later, he drilled a run-scoring single to left field.

"It was awesome," Machado said. "I came back, and like always, the fans did not disappoint. It was good to come back home."

Before the game, Machado said he was "weird nervous." Afterward, he cherished yet another memory forged at his favorite stadium.

"I didn't know what to expect. They go above and beyond. It was truly something special that I'll never forget," he said. "It was just amazing. The fans gave me a standing O. It tells you everything about the fan base here."

The home run was Machado's 100th at Camden Yards. The 2010 first-round draft pick has a 12-game hitting streak and an RBI in a career-high eight straight games.

Extending those streaks in Baltimore was a nice bonus.

"He loves this city. He loves the people of this city," San Diego manager Andy Green said. "To come back immediately and to do what he did today, to homer, I know it meant a lot to his family. It's fun to watch a really good person experience a really good day."

Red Sox 6, White Sox 3: Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run homer and David Price (5-2) struck out nine, leading host Boston past Chicago.

Phillies 7, Mets 5: Maikel Franco hit a go-ahead two-run homer for the second straight game, powering host Philadelphia past New York.

Nationals 6, Marlins 1: Max Scherzer (7-5) struck out 10 in eight innings and won his fifth straight start to lead visiting Washington past Miami.

Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 2: Enrique Hernandez hit his sixth career leadoff home run and Justin Turner added a solo shot to power visiting Los Angeles.

Braves 3, Cubs 2: Ozzie Albies and Ronald Acuna Jr. homered, Max Fried (9-3) pitched six innings of two-hit ball and visiting Atlanta beat Chicago.

Royals 9, Indians 6: Hunter Dozier's grand slam capped visiting Kansas City's stunning five-run rally in the ninth inning off Cleveland closer Brad Hand (4-3).

Rangers 5, Tigers 3: Jesse Chavez (3-2) pitched into the seventh inning in his longest outing in over two years, and visiting Texas beat Detroit.

Astros 5, Pirates 1: Yuli Gurriel and Alex Bregman homered to back up a solid start by Gerrit Cole (7-5) in his first meeting against his former team, and host Houston beat Pittsburgh.

Twins 9, Rays 4: Eddie Rosario had four hits, Williams Astudillo added three hits and host Minnesota extended Blake Snell's (4-7) troubles.

Mariners 8, Brewers 3: Daniel Vogelbach hit a two-run homer to lift his team past host Milwaukee for Seattle's first interleague win in five tries this season.

Athletics 7, Cardinals 3: Chad Pinder and Marcus Semien homered in a six-run fifth inning, and visiting Oakland rallied to beat St. Louis.

Giants 4, Rockies 2: Madison Bumgarner (4-7) struck out 11 batters in six innings and also drove in a run with an RBI single that helped lead host San Francisco past Colorado.

Angels 5, Reds 1: Tommy La Stella hit a leadoff inside-the-park homer and Luis Rengifo added a three-run shot for host Los Angeles in a victory over Cincinnati.

Record: All of Yanks' runs came on homers

FROM BACK PAGE

are 8-1 on a 10-game homestand that wrapped up Wednesday.

Aroldis Chapman allowed a run in the ninth before retiring Freddy Galvis on an easy grounder with two aboard for his 23rd save in 25 tries.

"It certainly wasn't perfect tonight, but the long ball obviously played a huge role," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

Stanton exited in the fourth with a bruised right knee and was scheduled for an MRI. He got tangled up with Toronto pitcher Clayton Richard (0-4) in the first while getting thrown out on a headfirst slide into third base.

The 2017 NL MVP just returned last Tuesday from injuries to his biceps, shoulder and calf that had sidelined him since March 31.

Nonetheless, the Yankees wasted no time rewriting the record book on this night.

LeMahieu hit his fourth career leadoff shot into the second deck down the left-field line, breaking a mark New York shared for one day with the 2002 Texas Rangers, who homered in 27 consecutive games.

"We've got something special," Judge said.

The Yankees quickly added another one, too, when Judge followed with an opposite-field drive into the right-field stands. It was the first home run since April 20 for Judge, who returned Friday from an oblique injury that sidelined him for two months.

It was the second time this season and 11th in franchise history the Yankees started a game with consecutive home runs.

Bronx Bombers, indeed. A total of 14 Yankees have combined to hit 51 home runs during the streak, including multiple homers in 14 of the 28 games.

Rookie left-hander Nestor Cortes Jr. (3-0) struck out five over

4½ solid innings in relief of opener Chad Green. They combined to retire the first 12 Blue Jays batters before Cavan Biggio doubled leading off the fifth.

Danny Jansen's double in the sixth set up Eric Sogard's sacrifice fly and an RBI single by Vladimir Guerrero Jr. that chased Cortes and cut it to 3-2. Tommy Kahnle escaped trouble with two strikeouts and Stephen Tarpley, recalled from Triple-A earlier in the day, tossed a perfect seventh. Zack Britton worked a 1-2-3 eighth and Chapman got three outs. Randal Grichuk's run-scoring single with two down trimmed it to 4-3 for the young Blue Jays.

"A lot of progress. We're playing good baseball," rookie manager Charlie Montoyo said.

Torres went deep in the second and Encarnacion hit his All-high 24th homer — third with the Yankees — off reliever Tim Lincecum in the eighth.

Tagged right off the bat, Richard settled down and lasted six innings. The former backup quarterback at Michigan, pitching on a night when his alma mater was playing for the NCAA baseball championship in the College World Series, allowed three runs and eight hits.

"I follow from afar. It's definitely cool to see," Richard said.

New York City ballet

Cortes kept the Blue Jays off balance with an array of funky windups. He dropped down, hesitated and even panned for a long beat with his stiff right leg pointed straight toward first base.

"He's really good at his craft," Boone said.

On the bench, Boone said the Yankees began calling one of Cortes' unorthodox deliveries "The Nutcracker."

"I try to stay loose out there," Cortes explained. "I try to mess up the timing."



KATY WILLIAMS/AP

Yankees designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion smiles as he celebrates with teammates in the dugout after hitting a solo home run during the eighth inning of Tuesday's game against the Toronto Blue Jays in New York. The Yankees won 4-3 and set the major league record for consecutive games with a home run at 28.

MLB

Rays owner hopes to share season with Montreal

By MARK DITTLER
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The principal owner of the Rays says it's unrealistic for his team to play full time in the Tampa Bay area, and a shared season with Montreal is the best option.

"I don't see it happening in St. Petersburg and would be hard-pressed to see it working in Tampa from what I know," Stu Sternberg said at a news conference Tuesday. "This is not a staged exit. This is about Tampa Bay keeping its hometown team and Montreal having one, too. I believe strongly in the sister-city concept. We're asking for open minds."

Commissioner Rob Manfred said last week the Rays have "broad permission to explore what's available." Tampa Bay is averaging 14,546 fans a game, lowest in the American League and well below the MLB average of 27,360. Only the Miami Marlins draw worse at 9,378.

"We are at or near the bottom in every economic category in Major League Baseball," Sternberg said in his remarks at the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg.

An agreement between the Rays and St. Petersburg for Tropicana Field runs through 2027. St. Petersburg's mayor has shot down the two-city possibility.

"The City of St. Petersburg will not participate in the funding of a new stadium for a part-time team," Mayor Rick Kriseman said. "We remain receptive to partnering with the Tampa Bay Rays to redevelop the Tropicana Field site and build a new stadium for a full-time team."

Sternberg envisions open-air stadiums in both cities but noted there are no plans to pay for them. He said an ideal target date would have everything in place for the 2024 season.

The Rays have played at Tropicana Field since their inception in 1998 and drew their lowest home crowd of 5,786 against Toronto last month.

Montreal has been without a big-league team since the Expos left after the 2004 season for Washington and became the Nationals.

The Rays had looked into building a stadium for years, but in December abandoned a plan for one across the bay in Tampa's Ybor City area.

Private equity mogul Stephen Bronfman, whose father Charles was the original owner of the Expos, is part of a group spearheading the effort to return baseball to Montreal.

Sternberg said it's possible the Bronfman group could join the current Rays ownership if the sister-city plans succeeds, but he will keep controlling interest.

Sternberg reiterated that the Rays will remain in St. Petersburg through 2027, but doesn't know what would happen after that if the plan fails.

A possible site for a new St. Petersburg ballpark would be Al Lang Stadium, a longtime spring training facility now used by a pro soccer team owned by the Rays.

Also under consideration: shifting the spring training season from Port Charlotte, Fla., to Tampa Bay to provide two more months of baseball in the area.



JEFFREY McWHORTER/AP

The Rangers' Nomar Mazara, left, is congratulated by Elvis Andrus after hitting a two-run home run that scored Andrus against the Chicago White Sox on Friday.

Texas surprise of first half: 'Totally on us' to sustain it

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Chris Woodward loves that the expectations are higher for the Texas Rangers.

They are certainly higher than they were when the first-time manager took over a team coming off consecutive losing seasons.

"Whether that lasts and we sustain that, it's totally on us," Woodward said. "Do we have a team that we feel like can win every game? We do, and they truly believe that."

After 21 games in 20 days, the Rangers got their first day off in three weeks on Monday. They came back on Tuesday and beat Detroit 5-3 to improve to 43-36. They have lost only one of their last 12 series since a five-game losing streak that dropped them five games under .500 in mid-May.

While two games shy of the midpoint of Woodward's first season, and still a bit early to talk about playoffs, the Rangers are tied for the American League's second wild card.

"There's no question there's a lot of room for growth in every player in that locker room, but the overall belief is that we're going to win a game every time we step on the field," he said. "That's the start to changing the culture of 'Hey, we're a winning organization, we're a winning team, we're going to be here for a while.'"

The finale of the three-game series at Detroit on Thursday will mark the 81st game of the Rangers' 162-game regular season.

Sluggoer Joey Gallo (276, 17 home runs, 41 RBIs) was activated from the injured list and played in the opener for the first time since a left oblique strain on

'There's no question there's a lot of room for growth in every player in that locker room, but the overall belief is that we're going to win a game every time we step on the field.'

Chris Woodward
Rangers manager

June 1.

The Rangers will be without third baseman Asdrubal Cabrera, who will serve a three-game suspension for throwing equipment on the field that hit an umpire after he was ejected from a game last Thursday. He initially appealed after getting a four-game suspension from Major League Baseball, but will now miss the Tigers series.

Elvis Andrus said Woodward has had a huge part in the resurgence for Texas, which went from consecutive AL West titles to a 78-85 record in 2017 and then 95 losses last season. The 30-year-old shortstop and longest-tenured Ranger in his 11th season described Woodward "a really good upgrade for the team."

Woodward spent the past three seasons as third-base coach for the Los Angeles Dodgers, who went to the World Series each of the past two years. The 42-year-old manager was a utility player during 12 seasons as a big leaguer with Toronto, the New York Mets, Seattle, Atlanta and Boston, playing for 11 different managers.

"His personality goes along with our team. He feels like another player here in the clubhouse more than a manager with his presence. He communicates really well with each player. He talks

to a lot of guys," Andrus said. "He knows how it feels if you're struggling, if you're doing good. So I think he's really a detail person. He's always looking around, trying to find a way to help whoever needs it. He's so positive."

Those 21 games before a day off included their first winning road trip of the season, when the Rangers split a four-game series in Boston before winning two of three at Cincinnati.

They followed that by splitting four games at home last week with the Cleveland Indians, the team they're tied with for the second wild card. Nomar Mazara then hit three homers, including one measured at 505 feet by MLB, and two doubles while the Rangers took two of three from the Chicago White Sox at home over the weekend.

"Our belief doesn't have to change. We've withstood a five-game losing streak. We've withstood three or four four-game losing streaks. Everybody wrote us off at some point here and there," Woodward said. "We don't get wrapped up in everything else. We just say, 'How do we beat this team today?'"

If the Rangers keep doing that at the pace they have been, they could be a real surprise in September.



SCOTT KEELER, TAMPA BAY TIMES/AP

Tampa Bay Rays principal owner Stuart Sternberg listens to a question at a news conference on Tuesday. Sternberg spoke about the prospect of playing some future home games in Montreal.

SPORTS BRIEFS/OLYMPICS

Briefly

Boxing body has Olympic status stripped for Tokyo

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The IOC stripped Olympic status from troubled boxing body AIBA on Wednesday and will now organize qualifying and final tournaments for the 2020 Tokyo Games. AIBA had created “very serious reputational, legal and financial risks” for the IOC and its American stakeholders, Olympic inquiry panel chairman Nenad Lalovic said.

The election of AIBA president Gafur Rakhimov, who is under United States federal sanctions for suspected links to eastern European organized crime, prodded the IOC last year to investigate boxing’s governance, debts and integrity of Olympic bouts.

International Olympic Committee members voted to endorse the executive board’s recommendation last month to suspend AIBA’s Olympic status.

Lausanne-based AIBA has said it is near bankruptcy with debts of about \$17 million. It is cut off from future income from Tokyo revenues, and the 2019 world championships for men and women in Russia are no longer Olympic qualifiers.

AIBA has an emergency meeting scheduled for Thursday in Geneva, which an IOC delegate is scheduled to attend.

AIBA hoped for a reprieve by Rakhimov leaving his duties to an interim replacement in March, though he could choose to return at any time this year.

The IOC had to avoid the consequences of fixed bouts or suspect results in Tokyo, said Morinari Watanabe, who leads the Olympic panel overseeing the next Olympic boxing competitions.

Qualifying tournaments for Tokyo are intended to be held in four continents from January through March, likely in London, China, Senegal and Argentina. All are recent or future hosts of Olympic boxing competitions. A final global qualifier is expected to be held in Japan.

That would give each boxer at least two chances to qualify for the eight men’s weight classes and five women’s classes, the IOC said.

WADA has 100 ‘strong’ Russian doping cases

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — More than 100 “strong cases” of suspected Russian doping are being prepared using data retrieved from the Moscow testing laboratory.

World Anti-Doping Agency president Craig Reedie said Wednesday it is “packaging evidence” for sports governing bodies to prosecute the highest priority cases.

Only data for “suspicious cases” is being provided, Reedie said, adding he expects more than 100 files the “first wave of strong cases against those we suspect of cheating.”

Data and samples were eventually retrieved this year from the Moscow lab covering drug testing up to 2015 — a period when Russian officials routinely covered up cases.

Reedie said all priority cases will have been investigated by the end of this year.

NCAA adjusts transfer waiver guidelines

The NCAA has adjusted some of the guidelines used to determine when waivers can be granted to athletes seeking immediate eligibility when they switch schools.

The adjustments approved by the Division I council Wednesday will require schools requesting a waiver for an incoming transfer to provide more documentation to support a case and more detailed verification of an athlete’s claims about their original school.

The move comes 14 months after the NCAA changed the waiver process to clear the way for immediate eligibility for all approved requests.

Sharks extend offers to Meier, Labanc, Gambrell

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The San Jose Sharks have issued qualifying offers to restricted free agent forwards Timo Meier, Kevin Labanc and Dylan Gambrell.

The team declined Tuesday to make an offer to defenseman Joakim Ryan, making him an unrestricted free agent next month.

Ryan became expendable after San Jose re-signed Erik Karlsson to an eight-year, \$92 million contract earlier this month.

Stanton ‘probably’ going to London

NEW YORK — Yankees slugger Giancarlo Stanton was out of the lineup Wednesday a day after he bruised his left knee on a head-first slide against Toronto.

Manager Aaron Boone said the MRI on the oft-injured Stanton came back clean.

“No new injury in there at all,” Boone said.

Boone said Stanton would “probably” travel to London for a weekend series against the Red Sox. It will depend on how Stanton responds to treatment before the trip.

The Yankees’ two-game series at London Stadium will be played on artificial turf. Boone said it was a “little of a factor” in determining whether Stanton will go.



PHILIPPE LOPEZ, POOL/AP

Mayor of Milan Giuseppe Sala and members of Milan-Cortina delegation celebrate after winning the bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympic Games during the first day of the 134th Session of the International Olympic Committee at the SwissTech Convention Centre in Lausanne, Switzerland on Monday. The IOC voted on Wednesday to change the way the bid process works and the elections of host cities.

IOC to change process of bid races, host elections

BY GRAHAM DUNBAR
Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Olympics hosted in multiple cities or countries. Bidders proactively invited. Candidates recommended with possibly no opponents.

Radical changes in how and when Olympic hosts are picked were voted in Wednesday as the International Olympic Committee looks to avoid negative headlines and angering local taxpayers following referendum losses and excessive spending on white elephant venues.

Stung by recent public votes in Europe and Canada, the IOC agreed that future bidders could need to win a referendum before entering a race.

“We cannot, I suggest, continue to be damaged as we have in the past,” veteran IOC member John Coates said, presenting reforms already tested in the 2026 Winter Games contest.

On Monday, Milan-Cortina in northern Italy beat Stockholm-Are, which tied Sweden to Latvia’s bobled track, in a campaign where support from national and city governments was often shaky.

Future Olympic bidders will be required to use existing and temporary venues and infrastructure, while being steered away from costly construction projects.

A new, flexible campaign timetable will end the Olympic Charter rule requiring hosts to be voted on seven years in advance of a Summer or Winter Games. That rule already had to be waived in 2017, allowing Los Angeles to be picked 11 years in advance of the 2028 Summer Games.

There might not be an election at all.

A key part of the new process is creating new Olympic panels — one each for Summer and Winter Games — which will recommend one or more candidates for an election.

It chimes with IOC President Thomas Bach’s wish to avoid “too many losers” — a phrase first heard during the 2024 race as it became a double award. Paris got the 2024 Games, while Los Angeles got 2028.

The new panels will be empowered to have “permanent ongoing dialogue” with potential bidders

and pro-actively approach preferred hosts. They will report first to the Bach-chaired executive board, which will pick the members.

Coates said the process targets “developing a significant pipeline” of candidates even beyond the next bidding contest.

The IOC was not being “control freaks” demanding legal guarantees far in advance, said Richard Pound, the longest serving member.

“Once you make a decision on the host city, millions of people start to make plans based on that and hundreds of millions of dollars are committed to it,” Pound said.

The IOC’s reformed approach to bidding followed Bach’s election in September 2013 and after Russia’s \$51 billion spending on venues, infrastructure and budget overruns for the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

In other decisions Wednesday, Athens was chosen to host the IOC’s 2021 meeting. That session, from June 24-26, will include a presidential election with Bach currently expected to get a final four-year term unopposed.

Former Philadelphia 76ers co-owner Erick Thohir was among 10 new members elected. Thohir, also the former chairman of Inter Milan, is president of the Indonesian Olympic committee.

Other new members include: Laura Chinchilla, the president of Costa Rica from 2010 to 2014; Credit Suisse bank CEO Tidjane Thiam; and Narinder Batra, the president of the Indian Olympic body. Batra also leads the Lausanne-based governing body of field hockey.

The biggest voting total, and loudest applause, went to Greek Olympic president Spyros Caporale. In 2012, the IOC formally warned Caporale after he was implicated in black market ticket sales for the London Olympics.

Two changes were made to the 15-member IOC executive board: Prince Feisal al Hussein of Jordan was elected to replace Gunilla Lindberg of Sweden, whose eight-year term ended.

Nawal el Moutawakel of Morocco, the 400-meter hurdles gold medalist at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, was elected to join the board when Willi Kalttschmitt of Guatemala leaves in January.

COLLEGE



JOHN PETERSON/AP

Vanderbilt pitcher Kumar Rocker throws against Michigan during the first inning of Game 2 of the College World Series finals Tuesday in Omaha, Neb. Vanderbilt won 4-1 to even the best-of-three series.

Vanderbilt rides Rocker past Michigan in Game 2

By ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Vanderbilt's go-to guy throughout the postseason once again delivered a dominant performance.

Freshman Kumar Rocker struck out 11 while pitching 6½ innings of three-hit ball, and Vanderbilt got to Michigan's shaky bullpen in a 4-1 win in Game 2 of the College World Series finals Tuesday night.

The Commodores (58-12), who set the Southeastern Conference single-season wins record, forced a winner-take-all Game 3 on Wednesday night at TD Ameritrade Park.

"We had the right guy on the mound," Vandy coach Tim Corbin said. "I haven't been around him that long, but I know the fibers of the kid. I know how he's directed. I know how he thinks. I know how he attacks."

Rocker (12-5), who pitched a no-hitter against Duke in the super regionals the last time the Commodores faced elimination, set the tone in another in a line of strong performances. Ten of the 6-foot-4, 255-pound Rocker's first 11 pitches were strikes.

Michigan (50-21) failed to score in the opening inning for the first time in its five CWS games, and five of its first six batters struck out.

"He's as advertised," Michigan

Scoreboard

College World Series

At Omaha, Neb.

(Double Elimination)

Saturday, June 25

Michigan 5, Texas Tech 3

Florida State 1, Arkansas 0

Sunday, June 16

Vanderbilt 3, Louisville 1

Mississippi State 5, Auburn 4

Monday, June 17

Texas Tech 5, Arkansas 4, Arkansas eliminated

Michigan 2, Florida State 0

Tuesday, June 18

Louisville 4, Auburn 1, 5 innings, susp., rain

Wednesday, June 19

Louisville 5, Auburn 3, Auburn eliminated

Vanderbilt 6, Mississippi State 3

Texas Tech 4, Florida State 1, Florida State eliminated

Thursday, June 20

Louisville 4, Mississippi State 3, Mississippi State eliminated

Friday, June 21

Michigan 15, Texas Tech 2, Texas Tech eliminated

Vanderbilt 3, Louisville 2, Louisville eliminated

Championship Series

(Best-of-three)

Monday: Michigan 7, Vanderbilt 4

Tuesday: Vanderbilt 4, Michigan 1

Wednesday: Michigan (49-21) vs. Vanderbilt (58-12)

Associated Press

coach Erik Bakich said. "He's got a special breaking ball that's tough to see. You try to sit on a fastball, and he throws enough of those breaking balls for strikes. You try to sit on the breaking ball, and he gets you with a 95-mph fastball."

Redshirt freshman Isaiah Paige (4-1), pitching for the first

time since June 8 in regionals, drew the start for Michigan and worked four-plus innings.

The problems for the Wolverines started after Paige departed. The Commodores picked up an unearned run in the fifth and then Jack Weisenberger, who relieved Benjamin Keizer with two runners on in the sixth, let in two runs on wild pitches to back-to-back batters.

Philip Clarke's ninth homer, against Angelo Smith, made it 4-0.

Other than Jeff Criswell, a starter until the postseason, Michigan's bullpen hadn't been tested until Tuesday. The Wolverines used only three pitchers in winning their first four CWS games.

"I thought early we were squeezing it," Corbin said. "We settled in a little bit better as the game went along, and we took the runs that were given to us. But at the same time, I thought we hit the ball better from the fifth inning on, after Clarke hit that home run actually."

Rocker worked around two singles, two walks and two errors through six shutout innings. Jack Blomgren singled against him leading off the seventh and a balk put him on second. Rocker struck out Joe Donovan and then left to an ovation from the fans behind the Vanderbilt dugout.

Athletic trainers: Coaches still influence health decisions

By EDDIE PELLIS
Associated Press

More than one-third of college athletic trainers say coaches influence the hiring and firing of their schools' sports-medicine staffs, a finding that counters an NCAA-recommended protocol urging medical staff to make decisions about athlete health independent of coaches and administrators.

Among the 1,796 athletic trainers who answered a recent survey, more than 48 percent said their school was not following the NCAA-directed guidance. Nearly one in five respondents said a coach had played an athlete who had been deemed medically ineligible to participate.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association sent survey questions to more than 9,200 athletic trainers who work in all divisions of NCAA, NAIA and two-year schools in an attempt to generate baseline data about how institutions are following NCAA guidelines. About 775 of the 1,796 respondents said they worked in Division I.

The crux of the guidelines call for coaches and administrators to be left out of the decision-making process when it comes to an athlete's health.



JOHN PETERSON/AP

Michigan designated hitter Jordan Nwogu is helped of the field after being injured trying to reach first base against Vanderbilt during the third inning of Game 2 of the College World Series on Tuesday.

But those who answered the survey painted a picture that shows those guidelines are far

from being met — and portrayed coaches as still having an influence on who runs the programs'

medical staffs.

"When a coach comes to an institution and maybe gets rid of,

fires, or replaces a sports medicine staff in place that's doing quality work, is that right thing to do?" said Kansas director of sports medicine Murphy Grant, who chaired the committee that conducted the survey. "The institution's role is to take care of the student-athlete. We want to look at the influence of why those things occur."

Nearly three in five of 537 athletic trainers who answered questions about whether they received pressure from non-medical personnel about medical decisions said they did. Of those, 28.8 percent said they received pressure at least twice a month and 2.56 percent said they received pressure daily.

Other findings:

■ Nearly three in 10 said the autonomy of medical staff differed depending on sport.

■ Just short of half the athletic trainers said there was no formal document describing their school's model regarding independence of the medical staff.

■ More than 76 percent of respondents said they feel they have unchallengeable authority to determine medical management of athletes.

"It's concerning that 24 percent feel they do not," Grant said.

SOCCER

Dutch win gives Europe 7 quarterfinalists

By ROB HARRIS
Associated Press

RENNES, France — Tears were still flowing from Saki Kumagai's eyes more than 30 minutes later.

With victorious Dutch rivals passing her on the way out of the stadium, Japan's captain seemed to find solace in speaking about the penalty long after it cost her team a place in the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup.

With Tuesday night's game entering the 90th minute locked at 1-1, Kumagai's outstretched left arm blocked the shot Vivianne Miedema had aimed into the right side of the net.

"It hit my hand for sure," Kumagai said. "It's difficult to accept but it's also sad. I know that is football."

Referee Melissa Borjas pointed to the penalty spot and Lieke Martens netted her second goal of the game in the 90th minute to seal a 2-1 victory that sent the Netherlands into the quarterfinals for the first time.

"We have made history," Martens said. "I'm not usually taking the penalties but I felt really good this game. I asked Sherida Spitse if I could take it and she gave it directly to me and I felt quite relaxed about it."

The reigning European champions will need to maintain that composure as they prepare for a meeting with Italy on Saturday after going one stage further than their Women's World Cup debut four years ago.

"We were standing in the circle after the match and we were so happy, yelling at each other," Netherlands coach Sarina Wiegman said. "We were saying, 'Let's continue writing history.'"

It is journey's end for Japan, which won the 2011 tournament and was the runner-up four years later.

The strength of the second-half display counted for nothing.

As befitting a meeting of the Asian and European champions, the game produced some of the slickest action of the World Cup. A backheel flick set up Martens to send the Dutch in front in the 17th minute and Yui Hasegawa equalized in the 43rd to complete a slick passing move.



DAVID VINCENT/AP

The Netherlands' Lieke Martens, center, celebrates after scoring her team's second goal from the penalty spot during the Women's World Cup round-of-16 match against Japan at the Roazhon Park in Rennes, France, on Tuesday. The Dutch won 2-1 to advance to the quarterfinals.

But the post, crossbar and goalkeeper Sari van Veenendaal thwarted Japan's pursuit of a winning goal.

"I think we lacked the clinical edge," Japan coach Asako Takakura said. "We have to accept the result, we're defeated, we're very disappointed and for all the players I feel very sorry for them and frustrated."

With the last Asian team eliminated, the Women's World Cup will have a record seven European teams in the quarterfinals. Norway and England meet in Le Havre on Thursday and France takes on the United States the following night. After the Netherlands plays Italy on Saturday, Germany and Sweden will meet.

"It's really tough to be here," Netherlands forward Miedema said. "Sometimes it kind of feels like a Euros."

That is a title already won by this team, thanks to Miedema's

goals in the final two years ago on home soil.

The fans won't have far to travel for the World Cup quarterfinal, with Valenciennes around two hours' drive from the Netherlands.

It will be another chance for the orange-clad fans who danced and sang their way in a convoy to the stadium on Tuesday to stamp their mark on this tournament.

They were certainly given a game to savor, and an audacious opening goal.

Martens flicked in the opener after evading her marker to meet a corner kick and send the ball through the legs of Yui Sugawara into the net.

Sugawara had a quick chance to tie, only to hit the post. But Japan did equalize by completing an intricate move.

Hina Sugita centered the ball across the penalty area to Yui Sugawara, who passed back to

Mana Iwabuchi on the edge of the penalty area. After holding off Jackie Groenen on the turn, Iwabuchi slipped the ball through to Hasegawa, who was free to delicately kick a shot over Van Veenendaal into the corner of the net.

It was some way to make the most of a first shot on target for a team that failed to score in two of its three group stage games.

But parity nearly didn't last long.

Miedema received a pass from Shanice van de Sanden, but with only Ayaka Yamashita to beat shot straight at the Japan goalkeeper.

Van Veenendaal came to the rescue of the Dutch in the second half by denying Emi Nakajima as Japan chased the winner.

"Japan is a world-class team and you saw that today," Miedema said. "In the second half you can see they have loads of quality on the pitch."

England center backs doubtful to face Norway

Associated Press

LE HAVRE, France — England could be without center backs Steph Houghton and Millie Bright for the team's Women's World Cup quarterfinal match against Norway.

England coach Phil Neville says "both are major doubts" for Thursday's game in Le Havre.

Neville says Bright is sick after picking up a "virus that's going a little bit through the camp."

Houghton is still recovering from an ankle injury sustained in a tackle in Sunday's victory over Cameroon.

Leah Williamson and Abbie McManus are in line to replace Houghton and Bright in central defense.

Scoreboard

Round of 16	
Saturday, June 22	
Grenoble, France	Germany 3, Nigeria 0
At Nice, France	Norway 1, Australia 1, Norway wins 4-1 on penalty kicks
Sunday, June 23	
At Valenciennes, France	England 2, Sweden 1
At Le Havre, France	France 2, Brazil 1
Monday, June 24	
At Reims, France	United States 2, Japan 1
At Paris	Sweden 1, Canada 0
Tuesday, June 25	
At Montpellier, France	Italy 2, China 0
At Rennes, France	Netherlands 1, Japan 1
QUARTERFINALS	
Thursday, June 27	
At Le Havre, France	Norway vs. England, AFN-Sports, 9 p.m. Thursday CET; 4 a.m. Friday JKT
Friday, June 28	
France vs. United States, AFN-Sports, 9 p.m. Friday CET; 4 a.m. Saturday JKT	
Saturday, June 29	
At Valenciennes, France	Italy vs. Netherlands, AFN-Sports, 3 p.m. Saturday CET; 10 p.m. Saturday JKT
At Rennes, France	Germany vs. Sweden, AFN-Sports, 6:30 p.m. Saturday CET; 1:30 a.m. Sunday JKT
SEMIFINALS	
Tuesday, July 2	
At Lyon, France	Le Havre winner vs. Paris winner
Wednesday, July 3	
At Lyon, France	Valenciennes winner vs. Rennes winner
THIRD PLACE	
Saturday, July 6	
At Nice, France	Semifinal losers
CHAMPIONSHIP	
Sunday, July 7	
At Lyon, France	Semifinal winners

US men following American women in France

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — After failing to qualify for their World Cup last year, the U.S. men's soccer team is following the American women in France as their World Cup.

"We've been watching every game and paying close attention," defender Tim Ream said Tuesday ahead of the U.S. group stage finale against Panama in the CONCACAF Gold Cup. "They have our full support."

The U.S. and Panama are both 2-0 and have clinched berths in the quarterfinals on Sunday in Philadelphia. The Ameri-

cans would clinch Group D with a win or a draw and would face the second-place team from Group C, Jamaica, El Salvador or Curacao.

Meanwhile in France, the defending champion U.S. women play the host nation Friday in a quarterfinal at Paris.

"It's great," men's coach Gregg Berhalter said. "We're proud of what they're doing. We're really happy that the whole country is tied into their quest for the world championship. When you look at the World Cup being played and the Gold Cup being played at the same time, all it does is bring more attention to soccer, and that's

fantastic." The U.S. has 35 wins, one loss and four defeats in the Gold Cup group stage.

"We want to win the group," Berhalter said. "We know Panama is a difficult opponent. We always have tough games against Panama. We've met them in the last seven Gold Cups and all the games have been close games."

While the U.S. is ranked 30th, Panama is 75th. Yet, Panama edged out the U.S. in World Cup qualifying on the final night and went to last year's tournament in Russia while the U.S. did not. Panama went 0-3 at the World Cup and was outscored 11-2.

"Panama is a very experienced team," Berhalter said. "A lot of their guys have played in the Gold Cup before. The strength of their team is that they've been together for a long time. They have a dynamic, attacking team."

The U.S. enters following a 4-0 win over 177th-ranked Guyana and a 6-0 rout of No. 92 Trinidad and Tobago.

"The way the young guys have handled themselves, in training every day and off the field, has been incredible," the 31-year-old Ream said. "You would never know that a lot of the guys are playing in their first major competition."

SPORTS



Women's World Cup

Martens' late penalty kick lifts Netherlands over Japan » Page 31

MLB

BOMBERS

Yanks homer in 28th straight game, set record

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
Associated Press

NEW YORK

Aaron Judge and his teammates were joking about which one of them would hit the home run that gave the New York Yankees a major league-record 28 straight games with a long ball.

The 6-foot-7 slugger, batting second in the lineup, predicted the mark might fall in the first inning.

Judge was right, even though he never had a crack at it. The first chance went to leadoff man DJ LeMahieu — and nobody else got one.

LeMahieu and Judge hit back-to-back homers to begin the bottom of the first inning, and New York held on to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-3 Tuesday night.

"I was just trying to do what he did. He's been our MVP," Judge said. "DJ stole the show. We're happy for him. No better person I want breaking that record."

Gleyber Torres and Edwin Encarnación



KATHY WILLENS/AP

The Yankees' Gleyber Torres reacts in the dugout after hitting a solo home run during the second inning.

each poked a solo shot over the short right-field porch for the Yankees, who shook off another injury to Giancarlo Stanton and won for the 10th time in 11 games. The AL East leaders

SEE RECORD ON PAGE 26

By the numbers

14

Number of Yankees who have combined to hit 51 homers during New York's 28-game home run streak.

4

Number of home runs the Yankees hit Tuesday to break the old record set by the 2002 Texas Rangers.

4

Number of leadoff homers DJ LeMahieu has hit during his career, including Tuesday's game against Toronto.

SOURCE: MLB, Associated Press

Inside:

- Surprising first half for Rangers, Page 28
- Rays: Shared season top option, Page 28
- Machado haunts former team, Page 26



KATHY WILLENS/AP

The Yankees' Aaron Judge watches his solo home run during the first inning of Tuesday's game against the Toronto Blue Jays in New York. The Yankees hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning.

Commodores even series with Wolverines » CWS, Page 30



027664 463149